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WEEKLY FREE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

East edition No 660

EDF ENERGY London and South of England Media Awards

EVENTS

Bring on the blooms

County's green-fingered experts head to the RHS Chelsea Flower Show

HEALTH

Should A&Es be merged?

Debate rages over future of health services

POLITICS

Ukip gets used to real power

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Leading to glory or the loss of its ultimate goal?

IN EVERY walk of life a good leader is, more often than not, the difference between success and failure.

Whether it is someone leading a school, a small business or a political party, if they can provide the direction and enthusiasm required to achieve the goals set out, then they deservedly take the plaudits.

Yet, with any great success comes a desire to usurp them - to step into their shoes and replace them. To savour for themselves the power which comes with great responsibility.

Nigel Farage finds himself in just such a maelstrom.

Through his sheer strength of personality, he has elevated Ukip into a party capable, in a relatively short amount of time, of commanding a huge share of the population. It may not have achieved considerable power, but the support is there, whether you agree with it or



Editor **Chris Britcher**

not, which means it deserves more than it actually achieved.

Now, however, Ukip faces a dilemma. Farage has pulled in so many to make Ukip a 'brand' but now it needs to focus on its main aim - a referendum which lurks potentially just a year away. Do they risk a man who polarises opinion so greatly leading the call to reject Europe? After all, he is so despised by so many, some may park their apprehension over Europe simply to give him a bloody nose.

The decision is a tough one for anyone who pinned their colours to the purple mast. What is more, it is fascinating that just a little over a week since the election, his political opponents are probably praying Farage doesn't, once again, decide to resign. Whether his party let him stay, remains to be seen.

For more politics turn inside.

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As the party find itself in a bitter internal war, it has taken control of its first ever council



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Our MPs secure key roles amid corridors of power

By Molly Kersey

molly.kersey@archant.co.uk

A LITTLE over a week after the election, and as the dust continues to settle, there was good - and bad - news for a host of Kent's freshly elected MPs.

As David Cameron announced the first Conservative-only cabinet in 18 years, Sevenoaks MP Michael Fallon proved his name was one of the first to go on the team sheet as he was instantly reinstated as defence minister.

But it was Greg Clark, who serves in Tunbridge Wells and increased his majority last week, that has perhaps the most to celebrate.

As communities and local government secretary he replaces the often controversial figure of Eric Pickles.

Mr Clark, who has previously served as a minister in the DCLG with responsibility for overseeing decentralisation, described it as his "dream job".

He told KoS on Friday: "I am thrilled and honoured to be awarded the role. It's a very big responsibility to be in the national cabinet and to have such a crucial



POWER: Our MPs are taking up key positions with the Conservative cabinet

role, which affects every part of the country. It's a privilege."

And he says he remains committed to ensuring he serves his local constituency.

Adding: "Being responsible for local communities across the country you can take inspiration from your own. I think it's a very good combination."

Elsewhere, Chatham and Aylesford MP Tracey Crouch got a promotion she too will relish

- named as the new sports minister. With qualifications from the Football Association, she still coaches a young girls' side locally.

In doing so, she becomes the third consecutive Kent MP to get the sports job. In taking over the role, she replaces Helen Grant, MP for Maidstone and the Weald. Before that it was Hugh Robertson, former MP for Faversham and Mid Kent.

Mrs Grant hinted, however, that David Cameron has another role

for her. She told KoS: "I wish Tracey the very best of luck in her new role. I am very proud of our achievements in sport and tourism since I became the minister just under two years ago.

"I thanked the prime minister for the opportunity to serve in what I consider to be the best job in Government. He has asked me to undertake a national role for the Conservative Party and I have accepted his invitation."

Your chance to discuss plans to change our county's boundaries

A CONSULTATION into boundary changes that could see the number of county councillors serving on Kent County Council drop, got under way this week.

The eight-week public consultation, which runs until July 6, will focus on proposals to alter county council electoral divisions, division boundaries and division names across the county.

Put forward by the independent Local Government Boundary Commission for England, the initial recommendations would see three less KCC councillors - from 84 to 81.

Those councillors, says the commission, would serve 65 single-member divisions, with eight divisions boasting two members.

Max Caller, chair of the commission, said: "We are publishing proposals for a new pattern of electoral divisions across Kent and we are keen to hear what local people think of the recommendations.

"Over the next eight weeks, we are

asking local people to tell us if they agree with the proposals or if not, how they can be improved.

"Our review aims to deliver electoral equality for local voters. This means that each county councillor represents a similar number of electors so that everyone's vote in county council elections is worth roughly the same regardless of where you live.

"We also want to ensure our proposals reflect the interests and identities of local communities across Kent and that the pattern of divisions can help the council deliver effective local government to local people.

"We will consider all the submissions we receive whoever they are from and whether your evidence applies to the whole county or just part of it. The commission wants to hear as much evidence as possible in order to develop final recommendations for KCC." For full details and interactive maps see www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk.

MyFerryLink saga sails on after surprise legal victory

P&O FERRIES has blasted rivals MyFerryLink over its 'unfair competition' practices.

The comments came after a shock ruling on Friday saw a ban on MyFerryLink's cross-Channel route overturned in the Court of Appeal. The company is part of Eurotunnel. It means it can now continue rather than be sold.

Earlier this year, the UK's

Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) said that Eurotunnel broke monopoly rules.

But P&O Ferries' Chris Laming told KoS: "We are waiting to see what the next step in this saga will be. We want a level playing field. We expect rival companies to compete fairly."

The CMA has said it 'will study the judgment carefully and consider its next steps'.

Chambers confirms he is to quit Medway leadership

RODNEY Chambers confirmed this week he would be stepping down as leader of Medway Council later this month.

It brings to an end a 15-year reign at Gun Wharf, the council's Chatham headquarters. The Conservative saw his party retain power of the unitary authority during last week's elections.

He said: "With over 40 years of

public service and following he elections last week, I have decided not to put myself forward as the leader of the council for a further term.

"I will remain leader for the next few weeks and I will continue to serve the people of Medway as a councillor."

The new leader will be appointed at the full council meeting of Medway Council on May 27.



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Library trust switch awaits legislation change

KENT County Council's proposals to move its library service into the hands of a charitable trust will 'move ahead', but not until legislation is changed to allow the Registration Service – which handles births, deaths and marriages – to switch too.

KCC set out the proposals in a consultation which concluded last month (see letters page).

KCC cabinet member Mike Hill said: "We consider that moving to a trust model is the best way to preserve the current level of service. In the meantime, we intend to modernise the service. This includes finding ways to maximise the use of library buildings, making greater use of new technology and exploring other ways to generate extra income."



TRAGEDY: Matt Carapiet

Family sorrow as student dies in Nepal quake

A GAP year student missing after the devastating impact of the first Nepal earthquake has been found dead.

Matt Carapiet, 23, was travelling in Asia before starting a masters in architecture. He went missing in the Langtang area, some 20 miles from capital Kathmandu.

The family said: "Matt was a much-loved son, brother, grandson and nephew. He also had a caring group of friends, who all have precious memories of how kind, happy, creative and brilliant he was. He made a huge impression on the lives of everyone he met."

"Matt was touring Asia in a gap year before planning to continue his architecture studies in the autumn. He spoke to us regularly about how much he was enjoying his travels and we know he was doing something that he loved. He had been trekking in Nepal for two weeks before the earthquake."

"The family is very grateful to everyone who has prayed for Matt and who put so much effort into spreading his picture and helping us to find him."

A team of Gurkhas was sent to the area to search for the student following the 7.8 quake several weeks ago that killed at least 7,000.

The country was rocked again earlier this week by another major tremor.

Decision by cops to drop lost property 'an incentive for people to be dishonest'

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

CRITICS have blasted a decision announced this week that Kent Police will no longer operate a lost and found service - instead telling people to post items they find online on social media.

In a decision which will effectively see officers wash their hands of helping to reunite owners with lost items, the on-going cuts to police budgets has been blamed.

A police spokesman said: "People who find lost property are advised to take reasonable steps to reunite it with its rightful owner, such as advertising its discovery on social media and putting posters up in the area it was found."

"Lost property is not a police matter and from June, we will only accept recovered property which poses a risk to the public; firearms and items believed to be associated with crime."

Chief executive for the Taxpayers' Alliance Jonathan Isaby was furious, however, he said: "The public



LOST: What will happen now?

will be livid. Handing something that has been lost to the police is good-natured community spirit, especially when it is valuable.

"For a force to discourage that is madness. The police are the first port

of call for people who have lost treasured items, and it will be devastating for individuals to know that a wedding ring or a wallet could have been handed in and reunited with them, but that officers refused to accept it. They should rethink this policy."

Graham Wanstall, an independent member of Dover Town Council, added: "This is an incentive for people to be dishonest."

"For over 100 years, the police have taken in lost property and waited for the owner to come and collect it. The officers don't all rush out of the station trying to find the owner. All they need is a note book and hand out a compliment slip as a receipt and pass on the finders details to the owner and all will be well."

"It is a crazy decision to stop it, and it was done with no public consultation. It is an outrage."

Police say they have around 9,000 items handed in each year, and around 12,500 calls to its control room about lost property. It says only five percent of people are reunited with their items.

Jail and animal ban for dog fighting man

A 49-year-old has been jailed for 160 days, told to pay court costs of £10,000 and banned from keeping animals for life after police discovered a cruel animal fighting set-up in the grounds of his home in Littlebourne, near Canterbury.

Steven Alston appeared at Folkestone Magistrates' Court on Monday to plead guilty to one charge of causing an animal fight to take place and one of causing unnecessary suffering to three dogs by failing to get proper veterinary treatment for their injuries.

Inspector Cliff Harrison, from the RSPCA, said: "Using terriers to hunt and fight wild animals is a sickening form of deliberate and premeditated animal cruelty. It isn't just the animals targeted that suffer sickening injuries, but also the dogs used in this barbaric activity."

"No animal deserves to be used and treated in this way. I am pleased that the court clearly took a similarly strong view and has prevented the defendant from owning a dog ever again."

Red diesel crackdown by rural police team

ILLEGAL users of red diesel have come under fire after Kent Police's rural task force launched a clampdown.

The task force has run a year long operation, cracking down on users of red diesel - fuel which has been dyed red to indicate that it is only to be used in tax exempt vehicles. The initiative saw police work in partnership with HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) officers, with more than £7,000 of fines given to people caught filling their tanks with red diesel.

Known as Operation Flame, the initiative ran between March 2014 and April 2015.

Inspector Dave Smith said: "It has proven an effective way in which to gain intelligence and to disrupt and deter people who wish to commit crime and antisocial behaviour."

"Since the beginning of the operation there has been a reduction in the number of reported thefts of red diesel from Kent's rural communities, so the message is clearly getting through."

Some raids had also exposed other illegal activity.

Actress hits out over cuts after Bafta win

ACTRESS Jessica Hynes celebrated winning a top TV Bafta last weekend for her role in hit BBC comedy W1A.

Ms Hynes, 42, who lives in Folkestone, then took her opportunity to hit back at Government austerity cuts and warn of impending further cuts to the arts during her acceptance speech.

Accepting her best female in a comedy programme award, she said: "I'm from a single-parent family. I'm really worried about the cuts that are coming in state education and to people in low income families."

"I don't feel low income means low talent, low imagination or low intelligence."

The mother-of-three plays Siobhan Sharpe in the BBC comedy which pokes fun at the inner workings of the broadcaster. She reprised the role from her original outing as the character in Twenty Twelve - a spoof looking at the organisation of the London Olympics.

She remains perhaps best known for her role in Channel 4 comedy Spaced, alongside Simon Pegg.

agenda

What will make next week's headlines...

Appeal for Biggin Hill memorial museum

AN APPEAL to raise £1.5 million for a memorial museum to secure the future of St George's Chapel at Biggin Hill airport will continue this week after its launch.

The government pledged £1m for a museum at the chapel in March.

However, the project will need another £1.5m on top of govern-

ment and council cash if it is to go ahead.

The appeal was launched during the Bromley mayor's civic service during part of the borough's VE Day celebrations.

Representatives from Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Poland, New Zealand, the Netherlands and



the US attended the service to pay tribute to the airmen and ground crew who were based at Biggin Hill during the Second World War, then part of Kent.

Quiz top west Kent cop in online public meeting

AREA commander of Kent Police's west division, Chief Supt Steve Corbishley, will answer questions direct from the public during an online meeting this Tuesday.

He will be available from 6pm until 7.30pm to talk about any aspect of policing in the division, which oversees

Maidstone, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Malling, Tunbridge Wells and the surrounding areas.

Previous online meetings have covered such issues as anti-social behaviour and the public perception of crime. To take part see www.kent.police.uk/onlinemeeting

...also

Garden show build up

EXCITEMENT is building towards the Kent Spring Garden Show which takes place later this month at the County Showground in Detling.

The show, which runs from May 23 to 25, will feature more than 300 exhibitors.

Pull on walking boots

THE Woodland Trust is staging a host of guided walks over the summer months - the first of which took place this weekend.

All take place at the Hucking Estate near Hollingbourne on June 7, July 11 and September 6. Each last two hours.

Race picks up speed

MORE than 300 people have already signed up to take part in the Folkestone Coastal 10k, taking place on May 31.

Entries are still open for the race, with organisers recently donating £1,000 towards the Nepal earthquake fund.

M20 lane closures

MOTORISTS are being warned of lane closures between junction four of the M20 at West Malling and junction five for Maidstone this week.

The work on drainage will see lane closures in both directions over night.

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Chelsea Flower Show brings out the style and the colour

It's that time of year again when the green-fingered get their chance to dazzle at the Royal Horticultural Society's showpiece in west London, starting this week

By Molly Kersey
molly.kersey@archant.co.uk

EXHIBITORS are pulling out all the stops for this year's RHS Chelsea Flower Show which gets under way this week.

The garden show, which runs from May 19 to 23, celebrates the cream of the horticultural crop.

Held in the grounds of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, and attended by a host of celebrities, it is traditionally seen as the most prestigious of all gardening events. It traditionally gets the royal seal of approval too with a visit the day before the doors open to the public from the Queen. What's more, the county has a long history of scooping the top awards.

Green-fingered garden enthusiasts are able to peruse show gardens, floral marquees and trade stands – with organisers expecting another sell-out 161,000 to make the pilgrimage.

But the main competition among the professionals will be the bid to secure one of the prestigious medals – a

sign of acknowledged, independently judged quality which can transform the lives of those winning them. They are awarded to a host of competitors, from designers to developers of new blooms.

William Dyson, owner of Dyson's Nurseries, Sevenoaks, will be returning to the show after a break of 11 years, to showcase plants from his salvia collection – a herb from the mint family, most commonly found in South America.

He will exhibit in the pavilion.

He said: "It's wonderful to be back at RHS Chelsea.

"I've spent most of the past 20 years developing, breeding, selecting and perfecting the cultivation of New World salvias especially the shrubby Mexican types."

Rod Fender, of Black Forge, Tenterden, said he has witnessed the show change over the years.

"We have been exhibiting there for over 20 years now. When we first started attending it was a far more formal affair than it is nowadays.

"In those days the RHS membership was probably just a fraction of

what it is now. This was pre-Charlie Dimmock and Alan Titchmarsh on the TV and your average member would be a well-to-do man of Middle England.

"It's a lot less formal now, not just in dress code but in the way it's organised."

He added: "A lot of the old-school organisers have been replaced by a younger, more enthusiastic and contemporary-driven crowd.

"They want the show to move with the times.

"It's exhausting as much as anything else. A couple of years ago they extended the show by a day.

"On Saturday you get a huge new wave of people in who weren't able to make it during the week."

The show's popularity has been swelled by extensive coverage by the BBC which comes live from the event across its duration.

Anyone hoping to snap up some of the plants used in the displays have to bide their time, however.

Mr Fender said: "You can look and you can admire but you can't buy anything to take away with you.

"Come the end of the show, because everyone has put all the time and effort into the displays, they have what they call the plant sell off.

"Over the tannoy they make an announcement, they make a speech and get everyone excited and then the plant sell-off starts.

"Everyone starts rushing around trying to get the best deal on plants that have been exhibited."

Paul Harris, of Brookfield Plants, Ashford, will be exhibiting in the floral marquee category. He is hoping for a strong showing have come away with top awards at recent shows.

"For the last two years I have got gold. It was wonderful, these are things you look at from afar and you never expect to be part of it."

Previous to that, he also picked up a prestigious silver-gilt.

"They said I was one point off a gold but I think they say that to everybody," he joked.

And he's confident of dazzling again this year.



GARDEN: Gardener blooms

"The plants are fantastic, the best I have had," he said. "Our display will see the surfaces covered with oak leaves and some moss and there will be a tree stump.

"I have developed a theme over

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POPULAR: Dazzling displays above (picture: RHS / Justin Tallis), and, below, Kent's very own William Tyson who will be attending the event



COLOUR: Fashion and flowers combine at Chelsea. Pictures: RHS/Justin Tallis above and RHS/Tim Sandall left

some years that has been successful and it gradually changes each year. The planning evolves over many years."

Among those also attending will be local firms exhibiting on the trade stands.

Elizabeth Durrant, of Broadstairs, who will be exhibiting in the show

with her husband Charles.

The pair run Wilverley, a family firm specialising in outdoor furniture. They have exhibited at the show for the past eight years.

She added: "They like to get things in now which are fresh, new things, and a product that no-one has ever seen before."

"It's such a unique occasion and showcases the best gardeners."

"It's lovely seeing the other stallholders and meeting existing customers."

Elsewhere, Bethersden's Stevenson Brothers will have rocking horses at the centre of a display themed around the Magna Carta.



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Grammar school campaigners hope for a decision at long last

With the election out of the way, a decision is expected soon on proposals for a grammar school annexe in Sevenoaks. And could a change in national policy be on the cards? **Sarah Linney** reports

CAMPAIGNERS fighting for a grammar school in Sevenoaks are hoping that the new Tory government will finally say yes to the plans as soon as the election dust settles.

The Department for Education said it was too early to think about an announcement, but insiders say a decision is expected before the summer recess in July or August.

Education secretary Nicky Morgan – who kept her position in Monday's reshuffle – had been expected to make a decision back in January on proposals to open an annexe of the Weald of Kent Grammar School, a girls' school in Tonbridge, in Sevenoaks.

But a decision was shelved amid legal uncertainty – and, possibly, an unwillingness on David Cameron's part to open a can of educational worms so close to the election.

Andrew Shilling, who is leading the campaign, said he was expecting a "swift decision".

"Ed Miliband said his government would not permit new or expanding grammar schools, so we are very relieved that a Labour victory did not happen," he said.

"The plan has been gathering dust on Ms Morgan's desk for six months, but with the general election now settled there should be no reason for her to delay the decision any further.

"Kent County Council and Weald of Kent's grammar annexe plan is strong and legally robust, and so I am very optimistic that Ms Morgan's decision will be a positive one."

In fact, he said he was hoping that the Conservatives, now unimpeded in their aims by coalition, would change the law to allow new grammar schools to be built in areas which already had selection.

"We are not asking for the law to be changed to permit new grammar schools across the country – merely in existing grammar school areas like Kent where there is a shortage of school places due to a rising population," Mr Shilling added.

"Other types of schools can be built to cater for this; it is absurd and unfair that grammar schools cannot."

It is illegal to open new grammar schools in England, but it is not illegal for them to expand.

The Sevenoaks school would therefore merely be an annexe of the parent Tonbridge school, with the same headteacher, rules and curriculum.

It would also, like the parent school, only admit girls – despite the fact that there is no boys' grammar school in Sevenoaks, which is the only large town in Kent without grammar provision.

A previous application to build a mixed annexe was rejected on the grounds that a single-sex school could not have a mixed annexe.

Sevenoaks MP Michael Fallon has



LONG-AWAITED: An artist's impression of the proposed new Sevenoaks grammar school

long been campaigning for a grammar school in the town.

"Too many children have to travel too far to attend grammar schools in Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells, which is extremely expensive, a waste of time and very tiring for young children," he said.

"They have passed the grammar school exam, and they are entitled to go to the grammar school of their choice. All we are asking for is for the Sevenoaks area to be treated like the rest of Kent.

"It's illogical to say grammars are the only schools that can't expand."

He said it would be "unusual" if the application was not determined before the summer recess, but pointed out that the legal issues surrounding the application were tricky.

"I spoke to the education secretary about it this week," Mr Fallon added.

"We are all in favour of the idea in principle, but Nicky Morgan has to take each decision in accordance with the law, and the legal complexity in terms of the distance between the Weald of Kent school and the annexe will take a while to resolve.

"If it was over the road from the existing school, no-one would hesitate to describe it as an annexe. But if it was 100 miles away, it couldn't be. Where that medium ground is has never been determined in law."

However, he would not be drawn on whether the Government was likely to change the law to allow new grammar schools.

"Our manifesto commitment is to allow all good schools to expand," Mr Fallon said. "We support selection where it has been agreed locally – it is for each county council to decide whether it supports selection."

However, education consultant Peter Read, who advises on school admissions and appeals through his consultancy Kent Advice, said he thought such a move was inevitable.

"I think the Sevenoaks annexe will signal the way to new grammar schools or grammar annexes elsewhere in the country – or a change in the law so a school can open an annexe with a different set of admissions rules," he said.

"The pressure will be on for the annexe to become mixed – and that is going to require a change in the rules, unless the Weald of Kent itself goes mixed. A mixed annexe would make sense, as there is increasing pressure on grammar school places in west Kent, especially for boys – the Weald of Kent, Judd and Skinners' schools were all oversubscribed this year.

"It's a massively political decision. The government will probably be looking for radical ideas, and this could be a radical idea."

Ashford MP Damian Green is usually known as a left-of-the-party Tory moderniser – but has consistently supported the Sevenoaks campaign.

He says he would like to see grammar schools treated as just another type of specialist school – one that

specialised in academic study – and allowed to expand like other schools.

"I think the annexe would be a very good step forward," Mr Green said.

"I wouldn't want to return to the 1960s system, in which there were only two types of school, and you were sent on one path at the age of 11.

"But I do want grammars to be available to more people, so that every child who would benefit from a specialist academic education has that. It gives opportunity to children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

"It is the logical next step in the increased variety of secondary schooling now on offer. The previous generation of reform allowed specialist schools to develop, so the state would offer a school which could stretch you to the limit if you were good at sport, languages, or science – but forbade a school stretching you if you were just generally good at school. Let's allow a variety of schools in any one area, so that parents can choose what they want for their children."

However, Mary Boyle, the headteacher of Knole Academy, the main secondary school in Sevenoaks and a comprehensive, disagreed.

She said the town did not need a grammar school.

"There is already a good selection of places in the area, both grammar and all-ability – we have a grammar stream – and quite a few schools have spare places," she said.

"I think people forget that students

in Kent do travel to school if they are rural. We have a lot of students who travel for an hour to get to school.

"We still have a lot of issues around the public purse being empty – so why spend a lot of money on something that's not required?"

"I think we will survive and do well whatever happens as we have a strong vision and sense of purpose and lovely students, but the annexe would affect our gender balance."

She said that the selective system these days disadvantaged children who were less well-off.

"I believe in a fair society, and I believe all children should have the same opportunities," Mrs Boyle said.

"But I think the selective system divides society even more. I could talk for hours about how it affects high schools. Wealthy people are paying for their children to be coached for the Kent Test from the age of four.

"Come into the school and talk to some of the students in the grammar stream who missed passing one paper by three marks, and hear how that made them feel. It would have seemed churlish to have an anti-grammar petition – but probably more people would sign it."

But Mr Fallon said there would be no stopping the campaign.

"If the application is turned down, we won't be satisfied with that, and sooner or later there will be another one," he said. "We have to have grammar school provision in Sevenoaks."



TRAGEDY: Both motorcyclists and drivers need to be more alert on the roads to cut the number of accidents

Campaign aims to put the brake on the number of bike accidents

Jamie Weir reports on the latest bid to make our roads safer by appealing to drivers of both four and two-wheel vehicles to take extra steps to stop the flood of deaths and serious injuries of motorcyclists

THE roar of the motorbike can be a powerful lure for many, but with a disproportionately large number of serious, and sometimes fatal injuries as a consequence of riding them, safety has become a key concern for many.

Only around one per cent of road traffic is bikes – either pedal or motor powered – yet they account for around a quarter of serious accidents.

It is a shocking statistic which has seen efforts to tackle it before – and revived again this month.

Just last weekend, a motorcyclist collided with a car on the A259 on the Romney Marsh leaving both the motorcyclist dead and killing two occupants in the car.

Now, as a direct result of the large number of crashes, Kent County Council (KCC) has launched a campaign to highlight bikers called, 'Look once, look twice, think bike'.

It calls upon motorcyclists themselves to think twice before weaving in and out of traffic or taking high-speed risks.

Steve Horton is KCC's road safety team leader. He told KoS that the campaign was more important than ever.

He said: "No one sets out to kill a motorcyclist, but unfortunately we are seeing a number of tragic crashes. The long term trend is downwards, but the statistics show that we still have too many bikers being involved in accidents with other vehicles.

"Last year, around 400 motorcyclists were either killed or seriously injured in accidents which involved other vehicles.

"Bikers form some of the most vulnerable road users because they lack the same protection that car drivers have. They don't have crumple zones, air bags or any protection apart from a helmet and clothes. That means that if they are in an accident, there's a much greater chance the injuries will be serious."

The campaign aims to ensure other motorists play their part in minimising the number of accidents.

Mr Horton said: "We want to make sure drivers don't miss bikes when they're out on the roads, and that means reminding them to ensure they're looking out for them."

Retired police officer Tom Morton now works as a driver safety trainer. He told KoS that driver error, where a motorist misses something when scanning the road ahead, is the cause for many accidents.

He said: "It's a common problem that drivers will look, but not actually see. If a motorist is waiting to get out a junction, and spots a gap, then they focus their attention on that, and it can lead to them missing other things which are perhaps not as expected. As bikes make up such a small proportion of road users, many car drivers simply aren't looking for them enough, and that can end up leading to tragedy.

"Around 76 per cent of crashes are

“If riders decide they want to drive outside speed limits, their actions become more unpredictable for other drivers and increases the chance of a crash”

Tom Morton,
Driving safety manager

down to human error, with distractions like phones making their mark."

However, the campaign is not all one way traffic. Mr Morton also says that bikers need to play their part in ensuring their own safety.

He told KoS: "Car drivers need to remember they aren't the only road users, however bikers also need to ride in a safe and responsible manner.

"Bikers can do simple things like wearing high visibility clothing, using their lights correctly and driving safely to ensure they stay safe. Driving within the law is a big part of this, and not something that all bikers respect.

"Lots of motorcyclists, like car drivers, break the law by speeding, overtaking where they aren't allowed to, or weaving in and out of traffic. What they need to realise is that the legal

limits are set to help other motorists predict what may happen on the roads. If riders decide they want to drive outside those limits, it means their actions become more unpredictable for other drivers and increases the likelihood of a crash."

Bike crashes, says Mr Horton, can be broadly split into two separate categories.

"We tend to look at two different groups, the bigger bikes of more than 500cc and the smaller ones, like mopeds," explains Mr Horton.

The big bikes, he says, tend to have accidents which don't involve others, out on the open road.

He continued: "Riders of larger, more powerful machines are more likely to have accidents where it's not caused by anyone else. It could be because they lose control cornering, with speed a factor in many of these accidents.

"Smaller bikes, on the other hand, tend to have a greater number of their crashes in urban and built up areas."

It's those crashes which the campaign is targeting, with crashes in urban areas often the result of cars pulling out of junctions without noticing bikes, which may be more difficult to see in a busy environment. Specific dangers for bikers in built up areas include cars manoeuvring, or turning while bikes ride around them.

While driver error accounts for many of the serious crashes which bikes are involved in, the Institute of

Advanced Motorists, an independent road safety charity, is quick to point out that many roads aren't designed with bike safety in mind.

Kevin Delaney is the head of road safety with the organisation, and the former head of traffic in the Metropolitan Police. He told KoS that as a biker himself, there are a number of things highways authority's could do to minimise crashes.

He said: "My years as a motorcyclist have shown me that actually there are a number of extremely simple things that could be done to ensure there are less crashes and the ones there are, aren't as severe.

"Quick engineering solutions like making sure potholes, which are still a problem for cars, but can leave a biker flying through the air, are fixed as quickly as possible would ensure there were less crashes.

"One of the big issues is poor sight lines for drivers coming out of junctions. Often, particularly at this time of year, there's foliage growing which makes it difficult for drivers to see as they're pulling out of junctions. If that was maintained then it would give drivers a better chance to see bikes. Parking is also allowed far too close to junctions, which once again blocks drivers sight lines and stops them being able to see bikes easily.

"Simple things like working to ensure sight lines were clear would give all motorists a better chance on the road, and it could end up saving lives."



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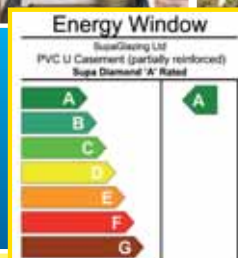
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Debate on plan to streamline A&E sites sparks fears over safety

Earlier this month, proposals were first mooted which would see major changes to the way A&E medical care is handled across the east of the county. **Jamie Weir** looks at just what they could mean and when the public can have their say...

OPTIONS currently being considered by health chiefs to slim down east Kent's accident and emergency (A&E) departments could cause patient safety issues according to a member of the county council's health overview and scrutiny committee. Mike Eddy, the Labour spokesman on the council committee, told KoS that the options, which included closing the A&E departments in Margate and Ashford to leave just one at Canterbury, could be dangerous for people who needed to make the trip.

He told KoS: "In medical parlance they talk about door to needle time. That essentially means the time it takes between a sick person getting picked up from their home, and when they arrive at the place they are treated.

"It's a well known fact that the faster a patient gets hospital treatment, the better their chances of a full recovery. The idea of moving all of that treatment to one centralised location could end up being life-threatening for people if they can't access it quickly enough."

The range of proposals include one which would see the Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother (QEOM) hospital's A&E department shut, as well as the William Harvey hospital's A&E close.

These would be replaced by a new hub at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital - some 40-odd minutes from the QEOM and 20 miles from the William Harvey.

Ideally, health chiefs want the new hub at a proposed new Canterbury hospital, first proposed last year, with the existing hospital funding the move by being sold for development.

The set of options were put before the East Kent Hospital University Foundation NHS Trust (EKHT) board of directors on April 24.

However, the trust is keen to stress that currently, these are nothing more than options which are being examined.

Its new interim chief executive, who joined as a troubleshooter in March, Chris Brown, says the trust is looking at all of its options but that the process had only just started, and no decisions

had been made yet.

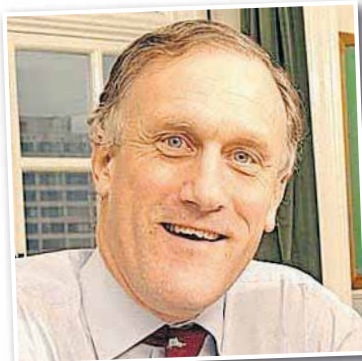
Mr Brown said: "It will take a least a year to go through this process of considering options, gaining agreement from all parties, hosting a public consultation, seeking independent review and final approval.

"With this in mind we are far from making any decision and I would like to reassure the public that they will have a say in any future proposed changes."

That was echoed by Canterbury's Tory MP, Julian Brazier, who stressed to KoS that no decision would be taken any time soon.

He said: "They (EKHT) are just looking at a range of options right now, as part of their longer term clinical strategy. The option which is proposing centralising A&E services in Canterbury has been put out there as currently the accident side of this is being delivered at two sites in the area, Ashford and Margate, while emergency services are being provided at all three hospitals."

That, according to Mr Brazier, provides a few issues. The accident element of the



SUPPORT: MP Julian Brazier



CONCERNED: Cllr Mike Eddy



CENTRAL: Kent and Canterbury Hospital is being touted as the main A&E department - shifting services currently provided at the QEOM (inset) and the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford

departments mean that 'trauma' issues, such as fractures and other serious injuries requiring surgery, can be dealt with. Emergency, however, is a medical branch, which covers serious health issues like heart attacks or strokes. Mr Brazier said: "In Canterbury currently there is an emergency department, but no accident as well.

The problem with this is that there is a national shortage of emergency specialists, which is making it more difficult to provide that service over a number of sites. If it were to be centralised in just one location, it would relieve the pressure elsewhere." The option to centralise A&E services, it seems, has been on the trust's

drawing board for some time. It says that over the past two and a half years it has been working to develop and evaluate ideas from its clinicians to deliver innovative, effective and affordable care. Affordable, says Cllr Eddy, could be the watchword. He told KoS: "The change, I think, is likely to be about financing. The

trust has been experiencing financial issues with lower government funding cutting in to service provision and this could be the reason for the options being put out there." Simon Bolton, who represents healthcare professionals in Kent for the union Unison, told KoS he agrees with Cllr Eddy's assessment.

He said: "These proposals have got nothing to do with clinical need, or any of the other excuses which are being bandied around by the hospital chiefs. It's all about saving money for the trust, which right now they desperately need to do." "Four years ago the trust was being

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highly rated and didn't have all of these serious issues, and now it has been driven to looking at measures like this which could result in safety issues for patients."

Mr Brazier disagrees with that assessment, telling KoS that although cash is always a key issue, the reason the options are being considered is different.

He said: "Finance is always a consideration across all parts of the public sector, the country's broke at the moment, but this isn't likely to be finance driven. It's much more likely to be driven by recruitment pressures."

"The surgical part of this is a discussion which has been developing over the last two or three years and it's about a need for staff. The national shortage of staff for emergency work is making it ever more difficult to cover large areas, something which this trust is not alone in facing. It's a topic which is growing in importance as fewer doctors are choosing to get into this area of medicine."

Cllr Eddy agrees that this is likely to be a contributing factor to the options being discussed.

He told KoS: "It is an increasing problem attracting people into accident and emergency medicine, so there is definitely a question to be asked about whether they are unable to recruit enough staff. If that's the case then they may be spreading their staff too thin to be effective right now, and that would obviously raise serious issues around patient safety."

"There are other issues with patient safety in this context too. The existing Kent and Canterbury Hospi-

tal is very inaccessible. On one approach there are schools, which mean there are large speed humps, not ideal in an ambulance, while coming from the other side is extremely difficult because it takes you around Canterbury's often grid-locked ring road. That means for emergencies, it could have an impact on people travelling to hospital, particularly if they're in a private car. You wouldn't want to get stuck in traffic if you were having chest pains while being driven to hospital."

Traffic could well be an issue in Canterbury, particularly with the level of development being slated for south of Canterbury.

However, the mere fact that development is likely to take place in the area could, according to MP Mr Brazier, provide some fairly weighty opportunities for the EKHT.

He said: "The local plan has identified some large bits of land south of the city which could be available for a potential new hospital. That would make transport easier, while moving any new central A&E hub into a better location."

However, Cllr Eddy said that a new hospital would be a very long term solution.

He said: "If they built a new hospital, what would happen in the meantime? It would take around 10 years, and require a huge amount of cash. What would the impact be on service for patients in the meantime? It certainly wouldn't be good for them."

The Conservative MP said that he favoured the idea of any A&E hub being located in Canterbury.

He told KoS: "It seems to me pretty straight forward that it should be in the middle at Canterbury, as obvi-



ously that means that the shortest overall distance would need to be covered from the extremities. I'll certainly be taking a very close interest in this issue as it develops, and am in the process of setting up meetings to chat with trust members."

The view that a new hub should be located in Canterbury could set Mr Brazier at loggerheads with one of his Tory colleagues; the new MP for South Thanet, Craig Mackinlay.

Mr Mackinlay told KoS that he wanted to see the QEOM hospital 'get better and bigger, and not lose any services'. Though he did also state that there was no direct threat at present, and he would keep an eye on the situation.

MOVING: The William Harvey Hospital in Ashford would be one of those impacted by the decision to change services to Canterbury

The EKHT says that before any option could be taken forward, a process would need to be gone through with consultation of a variety of groups, as well as the public.

In a statement, the trust said: "There is a legal process that we have to follow before any decisions can be made and we are only at the start of that process."

"We will have series of options for our trust board to consider and, if agreed, they will form the centre of any public consultation programme. The trust board, the clinical commissioning groups and the Kent County

Council health overview and scrutiny committee must approve that consultation.

"We will then undertake a three month public consultation and the results of that will be analysed independently. Both the trust board and the clinical commissioning groups will then consider this analysis, before making a final decision."

What do you think? Share your views and join the debate. Write to: The Editor, KoS, Kent House, 81 Station Road, Ashford TN23 1PP. Or email us at editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.

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Just what is behind changing face of our crime figures?

Recent statistics reveal key criminal activity apparently in a state of flux. **David Powles** takes a closer look at the trends

THE year is 2003 and Kent Police is being swamped by vehicle-related crime. In the 12 months previously their own figures show they dealt with 23,102 such offences, the majority of which involve theft of or from a vehicle.

That equates to a sixth of all recorded crime in the county, hours and hours of manpower and of course lots of pain, frustration and disruption for the victims.

Fast-forward 11 years and that figure reads very differently.

While overall crime has fallen, vehicle-related offences have plummeted - there were 10,354 in the whole of 2014.

This is just one area where, according to the statistics at least, certain types of crime are being driven out of our communities.

Yet our study of recorded police statistics for the past 11 years show this isn't the case for all offences. In Kent, for instance, shoplifting, drug offences and violence have bucked the trend. The reasons for this are multiple and complex.

Speaking to experts in crime, the first question they will raise is whether the statistics can be trusted at all.

There are two main ways crime is assessed in Britain - using figures provided by police forces and the Crime Survey for England and Wales.

There have been concerns for years about the reliability of those issued by forces and last year the UK Statistics Authority withdrew the gold standard status from the crime data the police record after hearing evidence of forces under-recording.

And Kent Police found itself at the heart of the scandal when then-chief Ian Learmouth admitted there was a "distortion of activity" by the force in some areas of the county to achieve crime statistic targets.

Despite this, Dr Nic Groombridge, criminologist from St Mary's University at Twickenham, believes they can still be a useful tool to track emerging trends.

He said: "I don't think the figures will ever be perfect. There is a vast amount of crime that isn't picked up by police records, the crime survey or other organisations. Some crimes aren't reported, sometimes people don't even know they've been a victim of crime."

"But these figures are a good indication of the reasons people have for calling the police."

So why have some risen, while others fall?



DOWN: Car crime figures have plunged as manufacturers up their security levels



CYBER CRIME SET TO KEEP RISING

Many experts in criminology share the view that cyber-related crime will become more common-place.

One reason for this, according to Dr Groombridge, is because many of these crimes currently go unreported. Eventually the statistics will catch up with the true picture.

Meanwhile, as anti-crime technology improves, this will have an impact. Dr Groombridge said: "In terms of shoplifting we are still waiting for technology to catch up. When they put tracking devices on items such as bottles of whiskey or clothes it prevented people from stealing them. But the smaller items don't currently have them. There may come a time when they will."

"The reason mobiles are so popular to steal is that they are mobile."

"They can be taken, then used. There will come a time when technology makes it harder to make use of a stolen mobile."

Dr Groombridge believes there is a danger that technology can take things too far.

He explained: "There is an enormous amount we can do to drive down crime completely if you are really hell-bent, but would we want to live in a society like that?"

"One of the downsides of freedom is you have to have some crime."

"I am concerned by the things we have done in terms of some of the smaller crimes, those police previously may have turned a blind eye to."

"If everything is monitored on speed cameras and CCTV you are going to get more crimes and going to need more jails. At a low-level we are seeing lots of things criminalised to some level, for example, fines for parking."

"If you say you want to completely eradicate crime you have to be careful as you may lose a lot of freedom as well."

And what of those crimes that are on the rise? In 12 years, shoplifting in Kent has risen from 8,394 to



As far as vehicle crime is concerned, technology has played a big part.

Dr Groombridge said: "This is one we can be fairly confident about. The reduction is largely down to car manufacturers suddenly realising that security was a factor as to why people brought cars and improving security measures."

"Vehicle crime was a large part of the crime figures and this is one of the reasons overall crime has fallen."

The same can be said for burglary and bike theft. There were 7,655 house burglaries in Kent in 2003, compared to 5,593 last year.

Even though cycling has become increasingly popular in recent years, crime prevention has improved and the figures have remained relatively static.

Elsewhere, theft fell from 21,426 to 16,317 and robbery from 1,242 to 1,027.

Experts say that so-called person-on-person crimes are falling, but

crime is quickly moving behind-closed-doors.

Dr Groombridge added: "There is a school of thought that people who were previously out on the streets offending, committing burglaries and robberies, are now back at home doing it in the cyber world on games such as Grant Theft Auto."

"But what we are seeing is an increase in cyber offences. We've moved towards a cashless society which makes one type of crime less likely, but opens a new door."

CAN WE TRUST THE FIGURES?

Doubts have been raised as to whether the police's official figures mask the true scale of crime in the United Kingdom.

Last year the UK Statistics Authority withdrew the gold standard status from the crime data the police record after hearing evidence of forces under-recording.

In its report, the Office of National Statistics said some police forces might be guilty of a "gradual erosion of compliance" with the national rules on

counting crime.

The fall-out is likely to mean that overall figures will increase over the next few years as police forces resolve the issues and adopt new guidelines which encourage officers to record offences more honestly.

While the police statistics may give a skewed impression of overall crime rates, they can still be used by forces to determine particular trends they may need to respond to.

Continued from Page 19

11,301; when the recession hits hard and people are more likely to take desperate measures.

Violent offences, with or without injury, rose significantly from 16,000 to 28,000, while there was also a rise in sex offences from 1,333 in 2003 to 2,549 last year.

Dr Groombridge said: "Generally police will say these figures have risen because reporting has gone up. It's a common tactic that police will say rises are a good thing because people are more confident about reporting crimes and coming forward."

Historic sex offences have featured heavily in the public eye in recent years and this will have impacted the figures.

Kent Police also dealt with many more drugs offences in 2014, rising from 3,236 to 3,270, but Dr Groom-

bridge claimed this may be a case of police putting more priority on to it.

In general, official crime has fallen in Kent from 130,597 offences in 2003 to 111,355 in 2014. That rise isn't as great as in other parts of the country, but this could be while their figures catch up in light of accuracy concerns.

With all the concerns about the reliability of the figures can we be reassured this is actually the case?

Dr Groombridge said: "I'm fairly confident that crime is going down. I suspect however that a lot of people will think that crime is not going down as there is always a problem of perception. People do often think there is more crime than there actually is."

Do you have a story for our new investigations unit? Contact David Powles on 01603 772478 or email david.powles@archant.co.uk

THE NATIONAL PICTURE

In this digital era it may come as no surprise the nature of crime is changing at some pace.

Fraud, which is currently recorded nationally but not at a local level, has seen a dramatic rise from 119,000 cases in 2010/11 to 229,000 last year.

Much of that involves electronic devices. The most common fraud category in 2014 was online shopping and auctions, with 42,000 recorded cases.

Often tricksters can rely on the anonymity of the internet to scam people into handing over cash or goods - for no return.

Delving further into the national statistics throws up some interesting changes.

In the past 12 months there's been a 26 per cent rise in causing death by dangerous driving and a 35 per cent rise in child abduction cases.

A 40 per cent rise in reported rape cases may point to an increasing confidence in reporting instances, rather than attacks being on the rise.

More positive news comes in the fact that murders are down, there were 1,047 in 2002/3 compared to 515 for the whole of 2014.

In spite of these reductions, the latest Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) found that around 6 in 10 adults (61 per cent) perceived crime in the country as a whole to have risen over the past few years. Fewer people, however, perceived that crime had risen in



WIDER: Statistics paint a sometimes misleading guide to our streets

their local area (32 per cent).

There were 19 per cent of adults who thought it was either "very" or "fairly" likely that they would be a victim of crime within the next 12 months.

The proportion of adults who were (fairly or very) confident the police were effective at catching criminals increased from 53 per cent in 2007/08 to 69 per cent in 2013/14.

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Win! Tickets to see Sir Elton John

He's one of our greatest ever performers and we have top tickets for lucky readers

MUSIC-lovers are in for a treat as the legendary Sir Elton John makes a triumphant return to Kent this May - and you could be there thanks to our great competition this week.

We have teamed up with the superstar to offer three lucky winners the chance to win a pair of £60 tickets to witness Elton John and his band, along with special guests Bright Light Bright Light, when he rocks the Kent Event Centre at the Kent Showground, near Maidstone, on Sunday, May 31.

The star said: "My band and I are very much looking forward to returning to Kent. I cannot believe it has been eight years since we last played there...too long! The fans in the south east have always made me feel very welcome during my several shows in the county, and I can't wait to bring our show to the Kent Event Centre. I am sure we will all have a fantastic time."

Undeniably one of the most acclaimed and adored artists of all time, Elton's spectacular stage shows are sought after by audiences worldwide. Since his career began in 1969 he has played more than 3,500 concerts in over 80 countries.

The concert will take place within a specially constructed arena and the grounds will open at 4pm.

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In 1991 Elton John had a UK number one hit with "Don't Let the Sun Go Down on Me". Which UK male artist did he duet with on this track?

- a) Holly Johnson
- b) Simon Le Bon
- c) George Michael

To enter text KOS followed by Elton and your answer then your first name, surname address and postcode to 80058, e.g. KOS Elton A JOHN SMITH 2 THE STREET, TOWN, DV2 2GT. Texts cost 50p plus your standard network rate.

Winners will be selected from all correct entries. The promoter's decision is final. Usual terms and conditions apply. See our website for full details. Please note if you should enter after the closing deadline of Wednesday May 27, 2015, your entry will not be valid, but you still may be charged. SMS services are provided by BBA Digital Helpline Telephone 0844 3572403.

Alternatively enter by post to Elton



SHOW: Elton John performs in Detling on May 31 at the Kent Event Centre

John Competition, Archant KOS Media, Suite 104 Kent House, Station Road, Ashford, Kent TN23 1PP including your answer, name, address, postcode and contact telephone

number.

And don't worry if you don't win. Tickets can still be snapped up.

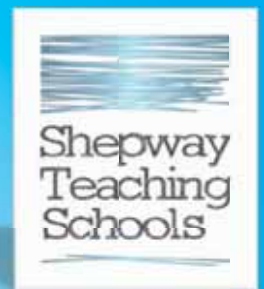
For more information visit: www.marshall-arts.com. Tickets can be

bought via the hotlines: 08448 24 48 24 or 0844 847 2441 or online at axs.com or ticketmaster.co.uk. For hospitality packages, please call 01622 633 064.

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This event is open to anyone interested in training to teach in Kent. It will include a presentation on routes into teaching: a market place where you can meet schools and representatives from HEIs and other teaching schools across the district. This is an opportunity for advice and guidance to support you in making your application.

To register for the event please email Shepway Teaching Schools office@shepwayts.co.uk or call 01303 298266

Curious case of the dazzling production

Theatrical version of Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time rolls into Canterbury...but is it worth the hype?

REVIEW by Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

THERE are some theatrical performances that manage to create such an engagement with its audience that it can pull off a dramatic silence and deliver sufficient power to almost overwhelm.

Such is the case with the acclaimed touring production of the Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, a remarkable piece of theatre based on Mark Haddon's best-selling novel.

And on Tuesday night it opened for a run of performances at Canterbury's Marlowe Theatre. It may just prove to be the highlight of the year.

The story itself is a series of complex, layered relationships bound together by the consequences following the bizarre death of a dog in a suburban front garden, and all revolving around the perception of events and the journey of discovery taken by 15-year-old Christopher Boone (portrayed magnificently by Joshua Jenkins).

It, in turns, brings the audience close to tears of both sadness and laughter in the blinking of the eye, yet it is the translating of Christopher's Aspergers' Syndrome - so central to everything which happens and the narrative which drives it, which is a true triumph.

His complicated mind may be supremely logical - he excels at maths - but his social interactions are laced with difficulties. He cannot be touched and if things overwhelm him he fails to cope, descending into a sometimes violent, always dramatic, breakdown. There is, in itself, a challenge to actually warm to this sometimes troubled character. But you will not only warm you will end up dousing the flames of affection.

As he pushes into life trying to comprehend all around him (a key coping mechanism being his ability to run through the prime numbers), he does so against a back drop of a family fractured by despair and a wider world at times both baffling and frightening.

Yet be under no illusion. Despite the rather heavy premise on which

all revolves, this is a story which is both extremely funny and witty and one which carries an enormously powerful message of empowerment and enrichment. You will leave the theatre with that essential feelgood factor.

All the action takes place within a giant box which consumes the stage. It has the ability to give the audience a glimpse into the reality of a mind which often feels like the walls are closing in; the clutter of noise and demands on our time which many of us compute and filter out but to Christopher all compete for his attention in equal, often frantic, measure.

As good as the actors are - and every character is strong - it is Simon Stephens' translation onto the stage, the actual mechanics of the production, which makes this a true masterpiece.

And good that it does, because the book was one which had that rarest of appeals - a cross demographic, from budding young readers to grizzled adults.

The audience at the Marlowe on the opening night certainly under-



lines its appeal. Young and old alike mingle. The very modern interpretation as engaging to the youth as any other age group. In fact, should this have been your first taste of live theatre, then it will have set the bar frighteningly high. It is, at times, an assault on your senses.

Numbers emerge onto the inner walls and floor of the box which surrounds the stages, flooding the visual

senses while the use of sound is cleverly executed to allow a sensation of what it must be like for young Christopher as he makes a string of discoveries about his life which creates a compelling, well driven, storyline.

The relationship between Christopher and his father (Stuart Laing) exposes the very real depth between the two and there are moments of silence where the audience's mind feels the

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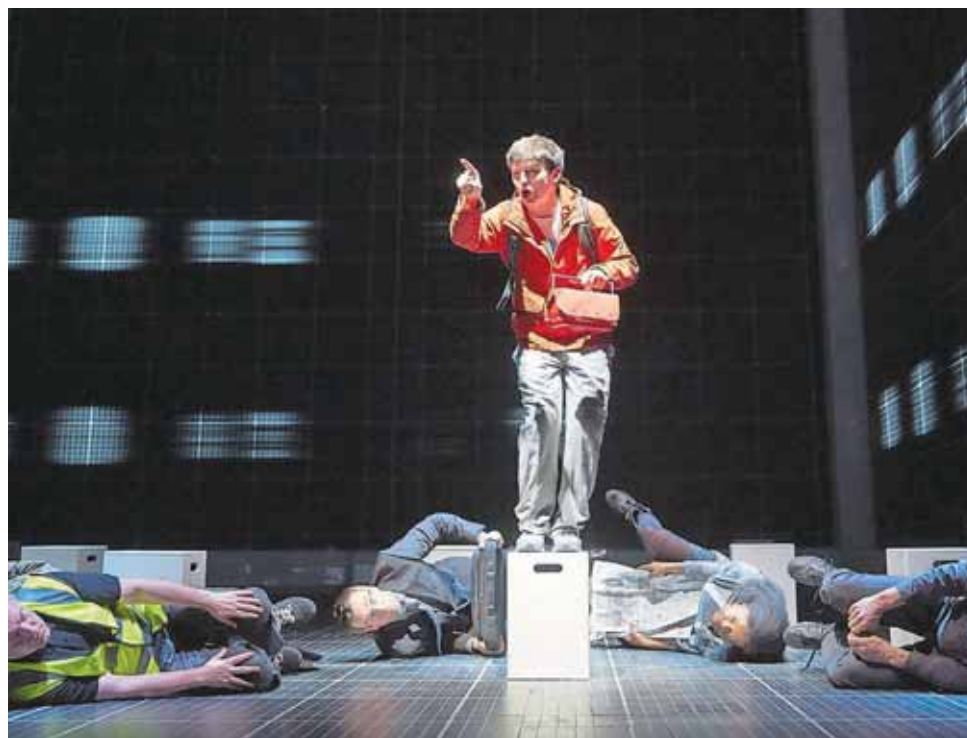
ENGAGING: Stage set is an assault on the senses

weight of the situation almost crush them. Silence is, when executed well, golden and on a couple of occasions here it is so laced with emotion it is hard not to find it one of the noisiest parts of the entire show.

There are some magnificent set pieces too - the construction of a train set during the first half, and a fabu-

lously constructed scene at a Tube station in the second are moving and dramatic in equal part. The box on stage's ability to morph into a key player in the drama should not be under-estimated either; it has an essential role which brings a sensory depth to the performance.

And don't rush off too soon at the



STAR: Christopher, portrayed by Joshua Jenkins, is the stand out performance

end. The final encore, if you like, will leave you begging for more. A literally, clever finish to what is a very polished and sophisticated performance.

In short, this production is a joy to behold. Not that this conclusion is, of course, anything new. Its run in the West End saw it receive seven Olivier Awards in 2013 - picking up worthy

gongs for best director, lighting design and sound design. You can quite see why.

Perhaps the best piece of news is that there is plenty of time to get to the Marlowe to watch it. Performances run until Saturday, May 23.

The book is a wonderful piece of literature - the stage show is its equal.

And that should be praise indeed.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time runs at the Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury until Saturday, May 23. Tickets are available via the theatre's website - www.marlowetheatre.com or call the box office direct on 01227 787787.



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Authorities stay true blue...with one dazzling splash of purple

By Maria Chiorando

maria.chiorando@archant.co.uk

WHILE the general election delivered one of the most surprising results in living memory, the race for representation on our local councils - the traditional grassroots authorities - also threw up some unexpected results.

The biggest headlines, perhaps not surprisingly, were delivered by Ukip.

It may have seen its leader Nigel Farage fail in his high profile race to claim South Thanet from the Conservatives (a move which saw him fall on his sword moments later, only for the sword to be pulled out of his still warm torso and for him to rise and carry on in charge just days later) but it may well prove to have the last laugh.

Because while the rest of the nation was still coming to terms with the general election fall-out, Ukip took control of its first ever local authority, booting out the Labour leaders to seize control of Thanet District Council - an authority which, like the party that now runs it, is rarely far from the headlines (see separate story).

In other areas, local elections continued to follow the national trend, which saw Lib Dem and Labour councillors falling like flies, and, unsurprisingly for a county drenched in blue, the Tories prosper.

Kent's only other Labour-led council - Gravesham - also fell, but this one to the Tories, and by less than 50 votes in a key ward, which saw the

Conservatives winning 23 seats to Labour's 21.

Everything else was a case of 'as you were' although Ukip's impact on the polls should not be underestimated. It may be currently riddled with bitter in-fighting, but its showing in the elections confirm it is now a significant presence in the county's political landscape.

Gravesham's John Burden, who has spent the week having to get used to losing his council leader title to now head of the opposition, said he did not see the defeat coming at all.

"We were very surprised with the outcome and we lost some good candidates," he said.

"And we got 44 per cent of the vote, whereas the Tories got 42 per cent. But it's all about who wins the wards. "But it's happened before, and that's democracy. If you lose, you lose. It was one of the biggest turn-outs we have seen, which is marvellous - there was a 90 per cent turnout in Coldharbour ward, for example."

But Cllr Burden said his desire to make the borough a better place was undimmed.

"My support for the borough and my enthusiasm for its future are no less," he said.

"I will be holding the Tories to account for the promises they made to the electorate. They have promised to cancel the Green Belt review and to provide free parking on Saturdays; if they fail to deliver on those promises they have misled the electorate."

Conservative leader John Cubitt is expecting to become the new leader of the council at the annual meeting



POLLS: Labour lost two councils

on Tuesday. He said he was "very happy" with the result.

"I am very pleased for our group, who have worked hard to get there," Cllr Cubitt said.

He said the national swing to the Tories and local Tory MP Adam Holloway's success had contributed to the result, but said he also felt people had wanted a change on the council.

"Look at the loss of shops and the intransigence of the Labour group over Saturday parking, which in our view would help businesses," Cllr Cubitt said.

Dover has traditionally been a bellwether seat for Westminster and Charlie Elphicke was comfortably re-elected. On the district council, Ukip made gains claiming three seats - taking two off Labour and one of the ruling Tories.

Paul Watkins, Dover council leader, said: "It's a very pleasing result

because it enables the council to achieve the continuity to carry forward its major projects.

"I think Ukip saw an opportunity with the slowness of the town centre development and effectively played on that unfortunate time lapse and appeared to be offering solutions which in effect had no backing or reality."

Tommy Johnstone, a Labour councillor in Aylesham, added: "Nationally and locally I think Ukip has given politics a kick up the backside and I think that was needed."

Elsewhere, in Ashford the Conservatives maintain control, jumping from 30 seats to 34. Labour lost a seat, as did the Lib Dems. Ukip have one seat, and there is one Independent.

Maidstone Borough Council only saw 19 of its 55 seats up for grabs - like many councils, it offers up a third of its seats, rather than the full council, each year, followed by a year without election. Following the 2014 elections, the Conservative Party had lost their majority of 29 seats, but were still the biggest party with 25 seats.

This year's election saw the Tories fail to gain overall control, but they are still the biggest party with 25 seats. The Lib Dems, obliterated elsewhere else fared well here - picking up a seat to retain their position as the second party with 20 representatives.

Other areas saw even more bad news for Labour, with Tonbridge and Malling's sole Labour seat being lost, eight out of their 12 seats lost in

Swale. Ukip were the big winners, gaining six to add to their existing three.

And on Medway Council, where all the councillors of the unitary authority faced the wrath of the electorate, the Tories proved dominant once more.

Medway Council Labour leader Vince Maple described the local elections as the 'biggest single day for democracy' for the area. But hopes his party could make serious inroads went the same way as that of Labour's nation hopes. The results saw the Conservatives retain control, gaining an additional five seats, taking them up to 36. The Lib Dems lost all three of their seats, and Ukip held onto their four

Labour lost two of their 17 seats.

Cllr Maple, who was unanimously re-elected as opposition leader this week, said: "Although last week didn't give us the results we wanted across Medway, we continue to be the main opposition group standing up for a better Medway fighting for better housing, support for our hospital and high streets."

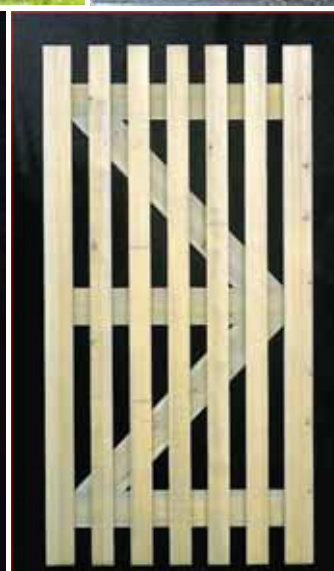
There will, however, be a new leader for the authority after Conservative leader Rodney Chambers confirmed he would be stepping down after 15 years in control. A new leader will be elected at the next full council meeting next week.

■ What did you make of the results? Share your views and join the debate. Write to: The Editor, KoS, Kent House, 81 Station Road, Ashford TN23 1PP. Or email us at editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

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Ukip lay claim to genuine power

For the first time anywhere in the UK, Nigel Farage's party are in control of a local authority after it swamped the Labour leaders and put itself in control of Thanet District Council. **Jamie Weir** reports

“DELIGHTED but sad” is how new Thanet District Council (TDC) leader elect, Chris Wells, described his emotions this week.

The Ukip councillor - who looks set to be voted into the leader's spot later this month - has led the party to its first council victory in the UK: a defining moment in the young party's political life.

Handed its first real power, all eyes will be on just how Ukip turns political rhetoric into action.

He told KoS his ambitions are limited, but that it's all to play for in the future.

Cllr Wells said: “We're delighted to have won the council, as it means we can finally start delivering on some of our promises, but it's tinged with sorrow that we don't have the backing of a Ukip MP.”

Leader Nigel Farage had tried - but failed - in his bid to become South Thanet MP.

Adds Mr Wells: “It's a really exciting period for us here in Thanet, with some incredibly enthusiastic and dedicated people taking up positions where they can start to really change things.”

The council was wrenched from Labour control by a strong show of support for Ukip.

TDC had previously been run by a Labour administration - albeit with a wafer thin majority - headed up by Iris Johnston.

But in something of a cull, Labour lost 22 seats on the council, and now holds just four, while Ukip added 31 seats, bringing its total to 33. Cllr Johnston was one of the few Labour councillors left standing after the crushing defeat. She told KoS that she was committed to working with the new ruling party, and had offered her help going forward.

She said: “I attended a new induction session and met some of the new councillors. While some lack direct experience on councils there's always something new to learn, and different governments are always changing things anyway, so I'm sure they will get to grips with the council's systems.”

“Before the elections, I was very clear to officers at the council that strong inductions would be needed for all councillors as it looked likely that whoever won, there would be a number of new people.”

Of the Ukip councillors elected to TDC, Cllr Wells says that just two have experience of ‘public service’. That means that there are 31 councillors with no prior knowledge. It's something he doesn't see as a problem, explaining to KoS that it's like university leavers looking for their first job.

“How do you get experience if people turn you down because you don't have any to start with? All councillors start



CONTROL: Thanet District Council is now in Ukip hands

somewhere, and these new Ukip councillors are no different,” explains Cllr Wells.

However Mike Baldock, a Ukip councillor who was thrust into opposition at Kent County Council after his party took the lead from the Liberal Democrats in the 2013 election told KoS it wasn't simple.

He said: “We added 16 seats to our existing one during the 2013 county council elections. That was a lot more than we'd expected, and it meant many new Ukip councillors who were light on experience had a very steep learning curve.”

“It was a real struggle for us when we got there, with no great understanding of the different protocols and systems we needed to use.”

Cllr Baldock said that the big thing that helped get the party through the transitional period as the Conservative Party's main opposition, were the officers surrounding them - the unelected, non-political employed council officials.

He said: “The staff at KCC were great, helping us where we needed and offering up excellent advice throughout the periods when we didn't know what was required of the councillors.”

Cllr Johnston is convinced that TDC staff will do a good job of shepherding the new Ukip council forward too.

She told KoS: “There are some good officers at Thanet council, and it's important that councillors make sure they take advice from them wherever possible. Those officers are the experts, after all. I have already spoken to a number of the new councillors and offered my services wherever they may need them.”

Cllr Wells though, says that his new council knows where it is going, and what it'll be looking to achieve.

He told KoS that he wants to run a ‘boring’ council, which doesn't make the headlines for the wrong reasons in the future, after years of infighting and controversy. Certainly, if it can achieve that, it will be hailed as a major success.

He also said that he wants to get delivering on election pledges such as Manston Airport (it wants to re-open it - see separate story), the local plan and keeping streets clean and tidy to start making Thanet's image better.

The Ukip landslide on TDC echoed other areas in the county, albeit in a more extreme way.

Cllr Johnston said that Labour had suffered such a bad defeat due to the huge campaign which the purple party had thrown at getting Nigel Farage elected. However, the area was far from the only part of Kent to see Ukip councillors take fairly weighty chunks of the vote.

Shepway District Council also saw the party take on a larger portion of the vote, with an extra five Ukip members earning themselves seats, while the party also saw gains in Swale.

There, the party moved into opposition with a total of nine seats, compared to just three last time around.

They took the opposition top spot from Labour, who saw their share of seats drop by two thirds, from 12 to just four.



CHANGES: Former leader Iris Johnston, and Chris Wells of Ukip

Cllr Wells put this groundswell of support across the country down to anger about the main parties.

He told KoS: “Residents in the area voted for us because of the way the council had behaved in recent years. There is a lot of anger about the kind of things which have gone on here in the past, and Ukip offered a different way of doing things with more commitment to transparency and fairness.”

“Ukip is still a relatively new party having only been around for about 20 years. If you look at other parties through the years, you'll see that the Liberals rose to prominence after showing that they could run local government well, and by winning control of Thanet District Council we can begin to show people that we can deliver on what we say. That could lead to bigger and better things in the future, and it's one of the reasons we're all so excited about it.”

Despite Ukip winning just one parliamentary seat, its share of the vote -

around 3.9 million people - has given succour to its supporters.

Former Rochester and Strood MP, Mark Reckless, who defected to Ukip from the Tories causing a by-election in November last year, said that the party looked set to grow. Despite losing his own seat last week.

He told KoS: “Our best days are ahead of us. What I've been struck by is the sheer number of councils where we now have representation where before, we didn't. We have an incredibly good opportunity to show the public what we can do, and turn many mis-managed councils around. We're committed to making life better for all members of the public, and I'm looking forward to seeing the party grow as a result of that.”

“Nationally, we came incredibly close in a number of seats, coming second in 120 constituencies across the country. That's the kind of result we can build on and I believe that Ukip is set to grow as a result.”

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Election 2015: Analysis... Election 2015:

Manston set for

By Maria Chiorando

maria.chiorando@archant.co.uk

A NY renewed attempt by Thanet District Council to buy Manston Airport under a compulsory purchase order (CPO) is doomed to failure, according to the owners of the controversial site.

Chris Musgrave and Trevor Cartner, who made their name by transforming the former Pfizer site into the Discovery Park in Sandwich, are majority stakeholders of the airport, which closed last May.

Just before the election, they unveiled two alternative plans of what to do with the land - one based around commercial and residential development, the other with leisure and recreation at its core.

But after the local election results saw Ukip swept to power at the district council with a manifesto pledge to re-open the airport, the party says it is now determined to deliver on its promise.

And it intends to do so with CPO - a power given to local authorities which allows them to force private sellers to hand over land for the benefit of the community. Manston, once again, is a political hot potato.

In a statement Mr Musgrave and Mr Cartner said: "There is no foundation on which a CPO process can be progressed and this has more to do with politics than the interests of the public. "If Thanet District Council continues it will have wasted taxpayers money on a venture they could not win."

This latest battle is just one twist in the saga of Manston Airport, which has seen more ups and downs than a plane tackling turbulence.

Key to the debate is that Manston has failed

to ever turn a profit since it was sold by the MoD back in 1989. Despite significant public and private money being invested over the years, it proved an impossible nut to crack.

But it is perceived as an essential cog in the economic works of Thanet and east Kent as a whole. Many continue to see it as a route to future potential riches and regeneration of the isle. They insist public money being invested by a CPO - instantly replenished by a private buyer - is essential.

The previous Labour-led authority had conducted considerable investigations into the potential of a CPO after a vocal campaign was set up to call for the airport's resurrection. But it ruled that public money could be at risk if any such deal was pursued.

CPOs are often granted in situations where infrastructure is being developed. For example, homes may be bought using a CPO so a train line can travel along that route, or a new motorway can be built.

Property developer Mr Cartner said: "When you drill down into what a CPO is about, the council would have to prove their plans for the site - to establish an airport - are socially, economically and environmentally better than our plans. I don't think that would succeed. The airport has been failing since 1989 and nothing we've seen suggests it has a better chance of survival than it ever had, whereas our plans are pretty well founded."

Ukip councillor Chris Wells is hoping to be elected leader of TDC next week.

He is adamant the CPO will succeed. He told KoS: "We have pledged to move ahead with our plans to buy the airport. During the election, we talked to a lot of people who wanted to see it in operation. It is a big issue for local people, and the majority support the airport."

The airport has been at the centre of contro-

Local Election Results 2015

People who voted in Kent

Dover:

Conservative: 25 (-1)
Labour: 17 (-2)
Ukip: 3 (+3)
CONSERVATIVE HOLD

Maidstone:

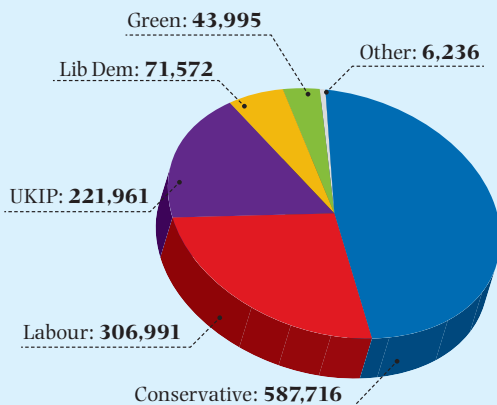
Conservative: 25 (+2)
Liberal Democrat: 20 (no change)
Independent: 6 (+1)
Labour: 2 (no change)
Ukip: 2 (-1)
NO OVERALL CONTROL

Ashford:

Conservatives: 34 (+3)
Labour: 3 (-1)
Ashford Independents: 2 (-3)
Liberal Democrats: 1 (no change)
UKIP: 1 (no change)
Independent: 1 (+1)
CONSERVATIVE HOLD

Tonbridge and Malling:

Conservatives: 48 (+1)
Liberal Democrats: 4 (no change)
Independents: 2 (+1)
CONSERVATIVE HOLD



Canterbury:

Conservative: 31 (-3)
Labour: 3 (+2)
Liberal Democrat: 3 (-7)
Ukip: 2 (no change)
CONSERVATIVE HOLD
Lower numbers due to boundary changes which brought the number of councillors down to 39.

Dartford:

Conservatives: 34 (+5)
Labour Party: 7 (-3)
Swanscombe and Greenhithe Residents Association: 3 (no change)
Ukip 0
Green Party 0
Independent 0
CONSERVATIVE HOLD



takeoff again?

versy since October 2013, when it was bought for £1 by Ann Gloag, the businesswoman and co-founder of the Stagecoach bus empire. Despite promising to keep the business running for a minimum of two years, she closed it just a few months later, losing around 140 jobs. She claimed hoped for deals with Ryanair and British Airways fell through.

American investment company RiverOak made three offers to buy the airport around this time, between £5 and £7 million. Ms Gloag rejected them all.

Ms Gloag then sold the majority stake, believed to be around 80 per cent, of the site to Messers Cartner and Musgrave. The pair recently released plans of how they could develop the land into a 'mixed-use' site which will include residential properties.

But Ruth Bailey, who recently stood as a prospective parliamentary candidate for South Thanet for the Manston Airport Independent Party, says this is not what the public want.

She told KoS: "Ukip promised to pursue the CPO, and that is one of the reasons they were elected - in this area, this was very much an election centred on Manston Airport.

"This shows that locals would like to see the airport offer training and employment.

"People don't want more empty business units in Thanet, which we already have in Discovery Park, and they don't want a housing estate for people commuting into London."

Cllr Wells added: "Speed is of the essence - we need to stand strong, and set the wheels in motion."

He has the support of RiverOak - throughout the process, the company has said it wants to become the council's indemnity partner in a CPO process, taking on legal costs and financial risks. Following Thanet council's transfer to Ukip control, RiverOak chief executive

Stephen DeNardo spoke to KoS.

He said: "It is extremely positive to hear comments, from the newly elected Ukip-led council in Thanet, that their intent to pursue the CPO of Manston Airport remains a priority.

"RiverOak remains absolutely committed to reviving Manston as an operational airport for the long term benefit of not only east Kent, but users of the whole of the London airports system too and we look forward to working with the new council to achieve this."

Cllr Wells also has the support of North and South Thanet Tory MPs Sir Roger Gale and Craig Mackinlay. The victor of Nigel Farage in the race to South Thanet said: "I am delighted TDC will be pursuing the CPO - and we will be working with them."

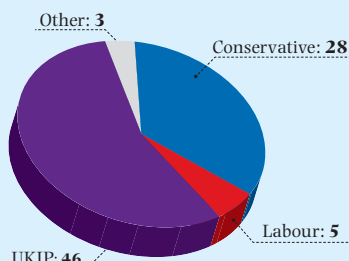
But despite the political heavyweights putting their name to the campaign, the developers remain defiant.

Mr Cartner said: "In all the politicking, there seems to be a belief that if the council want to do a CPO then they can do so. The council may agree to pursue a CPO but it is not in their gift to make one succeed. I'm hearing people think it is a foregone conclusion but it is far from it.

"Political will doesn't win a CPO. It is a legal process and there could be all the political will in the world but it doesn't mean a CPO will work. They have got to follow a formal procedure to prove their plans are superior to ours and I just don't think they are. We will be announcing details of our full master plan for the old Manston airport in the summer, when we will consult the public in detail.

"The new business park alone will bring world class buildings to the site and 4,000 jobs, which will ensure the economy grows in east Kent. In turn, this will secure the future of the next generation of employees."

Council seats gained

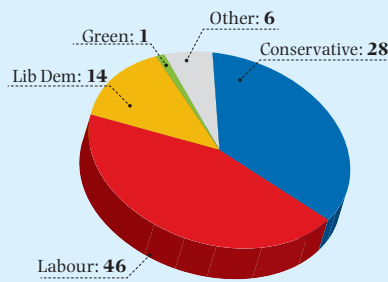


Sevenoaks:
Conservatives: 49 (+3)
Liberal Democrats: 2 (no change)
Labour: 1 (+1)
UK Independence Party: 1 (no change)

Medway:
Conservative: 36 (+5)
Labour: 15 (-2)
Ukip: 4 (no change)
CONSERVATIVE HOLD

Gravesham:
Conservative Party: 23 (+4)

Council seats lost



Thanet:
Ukip: 33 (+31)
Conservative: 18 (-4)
The Labour Party Candidate: 2 (+2)
Labour: 2 (-24)
Independent Group: 1 (-1)
UKIP HOLD

Shepway:
Conservative: 22 (-18)
Ukip: 7 (+5)
Labour: 1 (+1)
Lower number of councillors due to the fact that 16 wards were cut.



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Just what happened to Labour?

By Matthew Jones

University of Greenwich



FOLLOWING the Labour Party's woeful performance at both the general and local elections across Kent - where it failed miserably to make any of the sort of gains it would have demanded and expected, just what is the future for the party as it embarks on the lengthy road to selecting its new leader?

Dr Matthew Jones, from Whitstable, is a lecturer in political science at the University of Greenwich. In a special article for Kent on Sunday, he looks at what the future might hold.

The 2015 elections have seen the Labour Party wiped out in Kent.

Indeed, so bad was the swing against them that it is debatable as to whether they are even the second largest party in Kent, with Ukip challenging them for this honour.

Their poor showing in the council elections has further compounded these disastrous election results. Locally, the Labour Party failed to hold the only two councils they controlled; the Conservatives now control Gravesham, and Ukip has seized control in Thanet.

This is the first time that any English council has been Ukip controlled. Labour's electoral defeat is not confined to Kent, with the Conservatives gaining control of the majority of local councils and electorates in south east England. The electoral map is now distinctly blue.

So what do these election results mean for the Labour Party in Kent specifically?

It suggests that the message promoted by them has failed utterly to resonate with the Kentish voters at both



GONE: Once leading the Labour charge, both Ed Miliband and Ed Balls are facing up to very different futures

levels (national and local) of government.

This may be partly due to the specific Labour candidates in the various Kentish electorates, but more to do with lack of coherent alternative vision being promoted by the core national Labour leadership. In other words, local Labour candidates are being punished for what the electorate perceives as failings within the broader Labour Party.

What does the future hold for La-

bour in Kent? The Kentish electorate, generally speaking, is split along socio-economic lines, and this is reflected in voting trends.

Many of the Kentish "aspirational voters" who may have voted for Tony Blair in previous years have now shifted their allegiance away from the Labour brand towards the Conservative Party. Whilst many people laughed at the unease with which Ed Miliband ate his bacon sandwich, this shift is indicative of more deep-set problems within

the Labour Party identity.

Indeed, former Labour minister Alan Johnson has admitted as much in a recent interview. The Labour Party in Kent has failed to attract these aspirational voters, particularly with their economic platform.

The Labour Party will also need to address the challenge posed by Ukip, not just at the national level, but also here locally in Kent. It was suggested prior to the election that any increase in Ukip support would come at a cost to

the Conservatives. However, the results have shown this not to be the case, with the Labour Party suffering the most from Ukip's rise.

This trend was reflected in Kent, particularly in the Thanet region. Even though Nigel Farage failed to get elected in South Thanet, he did receive over 4,000 votes more than Will Scoobie, the Labour candidate. Similarly, in the Thanet District Council, the Labour Party received only 12 per cent of the vote, whereas Ukip secured 36 per cent. Whether or not the electorate view Ukip as a short-term protest party or are a long-term political challenge remains to be seen.

This leaves Labour in Kent in a very difficult position. In order for it to make any substantial electoral gains, particularly at the national level, it needs to appeal to two very different voting demographics - the aspirational voters who have shifted to the Conservatives, and the disillusioned voters who have shifted to Ukip.

Does the Labour Party try to chase these aspiration voters by offering more attractive economic policies? This is one option, but it runs the risk of Labour losing any type of distinct electoral identity. Does it try to chase the disillusion voters, but at the same time further alienating the aspirational voter?

This split appeal would be very difficult for any party to achieve, not just the Labour Party in Kent. At a national level the Labour Party is not just searching for a new leader, but a new vision and identity. What is evident, however, is that Labour politicians need to acknowledge that their message and current identity simply does not resonate with the local electorates in Kent.

■ What do you think? Share your views and join the debate. Write to: The Editor, KoS, Kent House, 81 Station Road, Ashford TN23 1PP. Or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.



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PURE WEDDINGS

A romantic wedding couple is featured in the background of the page. The groom, on the left, is wearing a white shirt, a dark vest, and dark trousers, and is barefoot. The bride, on the right, is wearing a white strapless wedding dress with a long veil and is also barefoot. They are standing on a sandy beach, holding hands and looking at each other. The background shows a sunset over the ocean with waves crashing on the shore.

Where to wed?
Finding your
perfect venue

Blooming lovely
Picking the
best flowers

Picture perfect
Source your
snapper

WELCOME to this edition of Pure Weddings - and congratulations to anyone who is planning their big day.

Inside, we tackle some of the choices facing engaged couples, including how to add the personal touch to your big day, and flower trends.

We also look at perennial bridal favourites - finding the perfect outfit, and how to add polish to your complexion with the best grooming products around.

We wish you the best of luck with your planning, and for the start of your new life together.

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- 36 **Tips...** on picking your venue
- 37 **Flowers...**your perfect blooms
- 38-39 **Beauty...** the best skin products
- 40 **Vegan weddings...**how and why



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A picture tells the story of the day...

IT is often said that your big day goes past in a blur.

For many people, the best memories are captured in the photographs - another opportunity to look through images of the day is a treat.

But for others, the photographer can often be a detail that is overlooked.

Ben Roberts is a wedding photographer. He says: "Good photographers get snapped up quickly.

"Sometimes, I will find myself booked up over 18 months in advance during peak season.

"So if you have a good idea of who you want as your snapper, you should try and sort that out as quickly as possible."

Jez and Anna Silverman tied the knot earlier this year.

Mrs Silverman says: "We were working with a fairly tight budget, which is why we went for an out of season winter wedding.

"We decided to ask a photography student to do it, for a very low fee.

"Unfortunately, it didn't work out. We have a few pictures from our guests, but hardly any nice shots of the day.

"I could just kick myself - if we'd paid a bit more, we could have nice photos now.

"I think in hindsight, the pictures



PERFECT: The right snapper will create timeless memories for your album. Remember to always look through their whole portfolio to get a sense of their work, and ask what services are included in their fees.

were actually more important than some of the other details we had."

Mr Roberts adds: "This is actually quite a common thing.

"People think they can get a friend with a nice camera to get pictures.

"Unfortunately, unless they are very good, you are just not going to get the same results as a pro.

"On top of that, you are asking a lot from someone - you're putting an

immense amount of pressure on someone who most likely doesn't have the skills, equipment or experience.

"So when things do go wrong - you have no protection or recourse."

Mr Silverman adds: "It did add some stress to the day itself, we could kind of tell the photographer was out of his depth, so we did start to get concerned when we noticed he was

too shy to come to the front of the room, to get snaps of the ceremony."

Mrs Silverman says: "We noticed at the reception that he had ducked out quite early, then he was hard to get hold of. A few weeks later, he just sent the pictures by email, after ignoring our calls."

According to Mr Roberts: "As a pro, I do find that some couples come to me after the big day, asking if

there is any post-production work I can do.

"I might be able to adjust some images, but even being very, very good with image editing as I am, I cannot work miracles.

"My time is expensive too - so you will end up with poor photos that have been well-edited, when you could have just splashed out a bit more in the first place."

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EVERY season brings fresh wedding trends with it, and 2015 is no different.

The most important thing, according to wedding planner Sue Terry, is showing your individuality.

"We're moving further away from this idea of 'must haves'," she explains.

"While many people still want to have the big white dress, and the horse and carriage, there is more and more room for your own unique touches."

While the classic, formal wedding will always have its fans, more couples are looking at other options.

According to Ms Terry: "Couples now see weddings as an opportunity to really show who they are."

"This can be seen in the different themes they pick, or even just in the feel of their day."

The bride and groom's outfits are one way of showing off the couple's sense of style.

Jay and Gemma Holdsworth decided to put a twist on traditional outfits during their summer wedding last year.

"I tried on loads of traditional

bridal gowns," explains Mrs Holdsworth.

"They just didn't feel right - I felt like all the dresses were wearing me. I didn't feel comfortable."

"A few of my friends have got married in the last few years, and I thought they all looked gorgeous in their ball gowns, and mermaid dresses."

"But it just felt too formal and stiff for me."

"I also didn't really like white."

In the end, she managed to find a dress by chance.

"We were actually looking for a dress for my sister, who was my maid of honour. We were in a vintage boutique, and I saw an amazing purple silk dress from the 1970s."

"I got a dress maker to do some alterations as it was a bit small - and it looked fantastic on the day."

Mr Holdsworth also decided to go less formal.

"I have never liked the look of top hat and tails," he says.

"With hired suits, I often think they look ill-fitting. Generally too big, with long trousers."

"So I knew I wanted bespoke."

In order to afford a bespoke suite, the couple asked the ushers to wear their own suits instead of hiring.

"This looked quite cool," says Mr Holdsworth.

"We all looked slick, but not identical."

"I also wanted to make spending all that money worthwhile."

"So I got a suit I could wear for other functions."

As a nice touch, he got a lining to match his bride's dress.

"I felt like people still knew I was the bride as I still had traditional touches like a bouquet, but I didn't feel like I stood out too much," Mrs Holdsworth says.

"Our relaxed clothes matched the relaxed vibe of the day perfectly."

"And so many people said they had never seen a bride in a dress like mine before."

Ms Terry adds: "This is a really good example of how a couple have moved beyond what is expected of them and found a perfect alternative."

"After all, the most important thing to remember is that this is your day. As long as you are happy with your choices, it will be fine."



UNUSUAL: More couples are adding quirky touches to their big day



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24 October, 7, 14, November, 16, 23, 30 January, 6, 13, 20, 27 February, 5, 12, 19, 26 March (usually £5,810.00)

Additional day guests charged at £66pp, additional evening guests charged at £17.50pp

Sundays - £3,112.50 - available on: 9, 23, August, 13, 27, September, (usually £4,150.00)
4, October, 1, 8, 15, 22, November, 10, 17, 24, 31 January, 7, 14, 21, 28 February, 6, 13, 27 March (usually £3,600.00)

Additional day guests charged at £58pp, additional evening guests charged at £17.50pp

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PERSONAL: The venue you choose reflects your personality and the overall feeling of your day. While budget will be a major consideration for most couples, other things to think about are how many guests will fit in, how it fits into your chosen theme, and whether they charge a corkage fee as well as staff charges.



Picking the back drop to your day

PICKING a venue is one of the most important choices a couple will make when planning their wedding.

The venue creates a backdrop. It reflects the feel of the day, as well as being a representation of the bride and groom's personality.

Kent offers a range of venues, from rural barns, city-style buildings and of course those on the seafront.

The Grand in Folkestone is a grade II listed building on the promenade.

A spokesman said: "Because of our location, we offer views of the English Channel from all aspect of the building."

"We are always keen to help with the wedding planning process."

"We will be launching our new wedding brochure with an open evening on July 2015 17 from 6pm in the Keppels Wine Bar and Music Room."

The launch will include the opportunity to meet and discuss the requirements for your special day. Local recommended suppliers will be on hand to discuss their services, along with the venue's own wedding co-ordinator.

A spokesman said: "For more information, you can contact the sales office on 01303 222222 or via email on weddings@grand-uk.com."

Our website is www.grand-uk.com."

For those wanting a more rural feel, a barn could be the answer.

James Reed and Harriet Gee are looking forward to their August wedding.

Ms Gee said: "I think finding a wedding venue is a bit like buying a house - you just get that moment when you walk in, and you instantly know whether it's the one for you."

"We visited a couple of places, but as soon as we saw the barn, that was it."

"I would advise that you shop around with your theme in mind, but be prepared to be flexible."

"At first, I had been thinking about having a more twenties-style do, but when we decided to have it in the country, that seemed like a brilliant opportunity to go down a more rustic route."

"Now we are looking at having local, country flowers and hay bales to sit on, as well as bunting."

"If the venue has a strong look, that can really help with keeping decoration costs down."

Mr Reed added: "One of my main concerns with the venue was budget, but when you start seeing the different places, it starts to feel real. I would recommend seeing four or five venues before making a decision."

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Blooming marvellous flower ideas

YOUR wedding may well be the first time you ever think about flowers.

After all, aside from giving or receiving the odd bunch, they don't play a huge role in most people's lives.

But the stakes are a little higher when it comes to these flowers.

They are much more of an investment than a wilted bunch of daffodils from a petrol station.

But when it comes to your big day, they often play a big part.

"Flowers not only represent your colour scheme, but they also show off the overall vibe of your wedding," explains florist Philippa Brown.

"The last few years has seen a huge number of brides turning away from formal arrangements, and looking for something more casual.

"As shabby-chic has been a very popular theme, lots of people have been asking for looser, hand-tied bouquets, using a range of country flowers, or even herbs."

Lisa Monroe got married late last spring.

"For me," she says, "flowers dictated when I had my wedding.

"I knew I had to have peonies - they are so gorgeous, romantic and rustic.

"I had originally wanted an August wedding, but I chose to have



CENTREPIECE: Your choice of flowers can make a huge statement

it a few months earlier so I could have peonies."

Lots of brides like going for traditional roses, lots of reds and pinks, but according to Ms Brown: "That is starting to look so passe.

"When you have those tight bunches of red roses, or, shudder, diamantes in flowers, it's very footballers' wives.

"In general, we're moving towards

something more organic, more classic looking."

Single colour bunches can look striking, but to be original, Ms Brown suggests moving away from tacky red roses and other obvious blooms.

"Hydrangeas can look amazing, as can bunches of sunflowers, or even gerberas."

For Mrs Monroe though, it was all

about being as rustic as possible.

"I wanted my flowers to look like they'd come straight from a meadow.

"For me, this meant a huge range of colours, including pink, blue, cream, yellow, and some, but not too much, foliage.

"All the flowers had to be different shapes and sizes."

If this is starting to sound very expensive, Ms Brown says there are

many ways to save money on your blooms.

"A lot of the flowers you would use in a more rustic bouquet are relatively cheap in the first place," she explains.

"Hydrangea is a huge favourite of mine - you get a lot of flower for your money. Gerberas are great too.

"The one thing I'd recommend you steer clear of is gypsophila (tiny white flowers often used as filler in larger bouquets).

"It can smell like cat pee.

"A lovely alternative is wildasters."

Another way to save money is to use clever display units rather than traditional vases.

"There's a trend at the moment where people use old milk bottles, and things like that," says Ms Brown.

"This can help tie your theme together, and requires a lot less flowers.

"If you have a few bottles, decorated with ribbons, different heights all clustered together, it will look beautiful, and require relatively few flowers for a very decently-sized display."

Mrs Monroe adds: "I spent a lot of time thinking about my flowers.

While some people thought this was a bit mad, I was so happy how they looked in the end, so it was definitely worth it."



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Pure Weddings Summer 2015

Your countdown

A key part of any bridal look is a perfect, glowing complexion.

While it would be dreamy to have a weekly appointment at the spa for a long, relaxing facial that kind of luxury remains an occasional treat for most of us, a bit of DIY indulgence is well within reach - and can make a real difference too.

Home treatments are well worth a try - the science behind them is improving all the time, so salon-worthy results can be achieved with the right product, and enough time.

Masks are one of the best long-term treatments to try.

Because they get longer to seep beneath the surface, the active ingredients in masks work their magic where it's needed most, while giving you instantly visible results at the same time.

And right now, there's a slew of new soak-in saviours targeting everything from sullen skin and frazzled hair to clogged pores and acne.

So block out an evening, light a scented candle, run a bath and get ready to mask in glory...

THE BRIGHTENER

The latest addition to Origins' line-up of the UK's bestselling masks is the Dr Andrew Weil for Origins Mega-Bright Dark Spot Correcting Night Mask, £48 (www.origins.co.uk), a leave-on cream packed with vitamin-rich botanical extracts and dark spot-fading actives.

Massage it in, leave for 10 minutes then rub

in any excess so nothing goes to waste.

THE PORE PERFECTER

There's a reason charcoal has been a trusted cosmetic ingredient for generations - powdered carbon (that's really all it is) loves sucking up icky stuff from our skin. Likewise, Clinique's Pore Refining Solutions Charcoal Mask, £22 (www.clinique.co.uk), works like a Hoover on pores and mattifies oily patches.

THE WRINKLE SMOOTHER

Sheet masks - face-shaped patches saturated with complexion-boosting serums - originated in the home of so many skin innovations, South Korea.

Unpeel the two transparent parts of the SkinPep Collagen Growth Factor Face Mask, £19.99 for five (www.skinpep.com), and smooth them over your face for 30-40 minutes for a plumping, peptide-rich skin infusion.

THE FACE FIRMER

Promising to mimic the action of Botox, Temple Spa's The Contourist, £50 for six masks (Selfridges or TempleSpa.com), is an ultra-firming sheet mask that tones, tightens and fades pigmentation.

With a chin strap and loops that hook over the ears, it's slightly scary looking, so make sure you're not expecting any visitors when you pop it on.

THE SCALP SOOTHER

Tea tree oil is well-known for its calming



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to wedding skin

properties, but apply too much and it'll really sting.

The Australian Bodycare Scalp Treatment Mask, £14.50 (www.qvcuk.com), gets the blend just right, resulting in a cooling sensation that soothes itching and flakiness. Apply when your hair is dry and leave overnight for maximum effectiveness.

THE HAIR HYDRATOR

Bleach, heat and stress can really take it out of your hair, but a weekly moisturising mask will counteract the damage.

New from the Pantene Expert Collection, the Hydra Intensity Masque, £6.99 (www.boots.com), floods locks with a triple whammy of nourishing nutrients in just three minutes.

THE SPOT STOPPER

Unclogging pores and reducing sebum are key to preventing spots.

From the new acne-targeting range, the Avene Cleanance Mask, £15 (Escentual.com), does both, plus it contains kaolin clay for a matte finish.

THE CULT REBOOT

To mark its 15th anniversary, REN has rereleased their classic Glycolactic Radiance Renewal Mask, £32 (www.lookfantastic.com). This cult favourite harnesses a cocktail of fruit acids to exfoliate dead skin cells and flush out pores when rinsed off.

THE BOTANICAL BOOSTER

New to the UK, French brand Aloreé uses

chlorophyll, the key component of photosynthesis in plants (ring any bells from biology lessons?) that also has anti-ageing properties.

The pearlescent green Skin Rescue Radiant Face Mask, £24 (www.pravera.co.uk), oxygenates cells and leaves your complexion with a subtle but noticeable shimmer.

THE HYALURONIC HERO

Another sheet mask, Indeed Laboratories Hydraluron Moisture Boosting Mask, £19.99 for four (www.boots.com), is soaked in moisture-maximising hyaluronic acid.

In 15 minutes, the key ingredient seeps in deep, leaving your face fresh, plumped and dewy.

THE TAN ENHANCER

A thorough exfoliation is a must before your slap on the fake tan, and James Read's Enhance Tan Perfecting Enzyme Peel Mask, £15 (www.johnlewis.com), does just that.

The clear gel smooths on and dries, and then peels off 20 minutes later taking a layer of dead skin cells with it.

THE POST-SUN QUENCHER

To stop your tan fading faster than that blissed-out holiday feeling on your first day back at work, a major dose of moisture is in order.

Phytomer Sun Soother After-Sun Mask for Face, £25.25 (FeelUnique.com), drenches skin with hydration and protects against the free radicals that threaten your tan's long-term potential.

TRIED AND TESTED

Keeley Bolger files this report on the skin-smoothing Emjoi Micro-Pedi Nano, £29.99 (www.lloydspharmacy.com)

"After running a marathon a few weeks ago, I was relieved to try out this foot-filing gadget. The toil of pounding the pavements during training had left the skin on my feet hard and ugly, and in need of some TLC before summer - and the associated sandal-wearing - arrives.



"Battery-powered, small and very easy to use, I was really impressed with the Micro-Pedi. It files feet quickly and, most crucially for me, doesn't hurt. While not as cheap as a handheld file, the results - smoother, nicer feet - justify the cost. But bear in mind - it does take off a LOT of dead skin, so make sure you're prepared with a strategically placed towel to catch the flakes."

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The rise of vegan wedding days

VEGANISM is on the rise. With more and more people wanting to live a more ethical life, they are turning to it for many reasons.

Whether it is for moral issues, and dissatisfaction at the treatment of animals involved in industrial factory farming, or the enormous environmental impact of meat production, it is widely becoming more acknowledged as a lifestyle choice.

So it stands to reason that couples want to integrate this ethos into their weddings.

Emma Smith is a logistics co-ordinator for a catering company.

She says: "We've seen a huge increase in the number of people looking for either vegan options, including canapes, or entire vegan menus."

"Any chef worth their salt can provide a delicious vegan meal - if they can't cook without meat, this means they lack imagination, cooking skills, and technique."

Food is not the only aspect the couple will be looking at.

Lianne and Will Beach had an all vegan wedding last summer.

"Food is really important, but it's the tip of the iceberg," says Mrs Beach.

"There was also the alcohol to



DELICIOUS: Almost any dessert can be made without animal ingredients

think about - which was really easy, as nearly all spirits are vegan. Loads of beers and wines are too.

"I also had to think about whether my make-up and hair products were cruelty free, as well as buying a silk free dress (silk worms are boiled alive during production of the fabric) and non leather shoes."

Mr Beach adds: "Without a shadow of a doubt, the hardest thing

to find was my suit.

"Most suits are made out of wool, with silk linings, so it was a case of finding something that I liked, that fit well, that was cruelty-free."

When most people's unsophisticated palettes are used to meat and potatoes, how did the food go down?

"Some people grumbled good-naturedly before the event," says Mrs Beach.

"But on the day, the food was really good."

"This was really important to us - we felt we had a point to prove."

"We actually went for quite unique catering in the end, a mobile wood-fired pizza oven - and it was amazing. We also had canapes, as well as a range of antipasti, and of course loads of amazing desserts on our cake table."

"We got an artisan cake-maker to do the cake, which was delicious."

"To be honest, vegan cake tastes just like non-vegan cake anyway, so that was one of the easy bits."

Mr Beach adds: "While we wanted to provide a free bar with loads of booze, and loads of delicious food, I wasn't very interested in people moaning about it."

"I felt that if everything we provided was high quality, and abundant, then it would just have been rude to moan."

Aside from the lack of meat on the menu, their big day was quite traditional.

"We did get jokes about being tree huggers," says Mrs Beach.

"But we had a fairly ordinary civil service, wore what be considered very traditional outfits."

"I think people were a bit surprised by how 'normal' and nice everything was."

"We just felt like we wanted to create a really lovely day for our guests, so they didn't feel like they were missing out on anything, and we didn't feel like we were compromising our principles - and I think we managed."

Ms Smith adds: "Weddings are about love, fun, the best company, eating, drinking and being merry. Compassion doesn't ruin that."

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VISION: This is how Kingsmead could look should redevelopment plans get the go-ahead

Multiplex and ice rink for city?

Ambitious plans have been unveiled to transform a key area of Canterbury to create a leisure hub

A MULTI-million pound investment to transform part of Canterbury has been unveiled - boasting a multiplex cinema, restaurants and a host of other leisure outlets.

The project will be on the site of the former coach park and current Serco development at Kingsmead.

The plans have been put forward by the Bouygues Development company, the city council's development partner on the project.

Previously there had been plans to boost the area by nearby supermarket giant Sainsbury's - but that all fell through when the retailer opted instead to not expand.

In addition to the leisure facilities, the proposals include student accommodation and other residential development.

Bouygues Development has designed a public area that is intended to become the heart of the leisure aspect of the scheme, hosting a variety of events including markets, an outdoor skating rink at Christmas and local theatre productions.

City councillors took the decision to select Bouygues Development at a full council meeting on April 30, but an announcement has not been possible until now for legal reasons.

It was selected from a shortlist of three developers - after an original seven firms en-

tered the tender process.

Canterbury City Council's chief executive, Colin Carmichael, said: "The standard of all the bids was very high, and we're delighted to have selected such an experienced company as our partner for this exciting regeneration project for Canterbury. Bouygues Development has an excellent track record of developing large-scale, complex mixed-use regeneration projects such as the one we envisage for Kingsmead.

"Ultimately it was the quality of the design and their ability to deliver this project that gave Bouygues Development the edge, and we're looking forward to working with them in the months ahead."

Axel Boutrolle, regional director at Bouygues Development, said: "After eight months of hard work, we are confident that we have designed a viable scheme which keeps to the council's project scope and respects the surrounding area.

"We have put together a very competent professional team and we look forward to realising this important strategic site for Canterbury."

The next phase of the project will see Bouygues Development working towards submitting a planning application at the start of 2016 with construction starting later that year.

The Kingsmead area of Canterbury has changed dramatically in recent years.

Once the home of the city's football club and popular greyhound track, it was closed and the area turned instead into a coach park while plans were considered.

In 2009, while the old Marlowe Theatre was pulled down and its state-of-the-art replacement constructed, the Marlowe Arena sprung up on the site. A giant circus-style big top, it housed the popular festive pantomime, pulling in thousands.

But much hope had been pinned on the Sainsbury development. The supermarket currently has a large store opposite the development site. In January 2014, the council revealed it planned to build a larger store and petrol station on the land opposite its existing home.

In exchange, it would see its current site turned into a leisure hub, featuring a cinema and restaurant.

But just months later, as supermarkets pulled back from major new builds in the light of a change in our shopping habits, the plan was scrapped. Sainsbury also pulled the plug on a similar ambitious deal in Tonbridge - derailing proposals for town regeneration there too.

What do you think of the proposals? Share your views and join the debate. Write to: The Editor, KoS, Kent House, 81 Station Road, Ashford TN23 1PP. Or email us at editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.



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Royal delight as thousands head to palace for party in the park

Molly Kersey speaks to some of those from the county who mingled with members of the royal family this week in the grand grounds of Buckingham Palace and finds out just how you secure an invitation

THE gates of Buckingham Palace swung open this week for the first of this year's royal garden parties. And those attending the first of the season were spoilt with not only the Queen but Prince Charles and Prince Edward mingling with the crowds too.

The special invite-only events are staged each year. Once again, the great and the good of Kent will represent the county at the events, which regularly pull in crowds of 8,000 people. They will get to enjoy the carefully manicured gardens which surround the royal palace.

To secure an invitation is by recommendation from government, charities, societies or organisations such as the civil service, creating an audience of diverse individuals from all walks of life. Their unifying trait is that they have all gone above and beyond to make a real contribution to their communities.

Once inside, the guests are treated to tea, sandwiches and cake, and have the chance to see the Queen as she makes her way around the gardens.

Captain Charles Oliver, of Gravesend, attended this week. Since the loss of his wife 25 years ago, he has raised more than £250,000 for cancer research, as well as volunteering.

"It was absolutely brilliant," he told KoS. "The food was excellent and the staff were very attentive. I have difficulty walking and they provided me with a chair; they were very good."

"The Queen was about six feet away from me."

He was very surprised when he received his invitation. "I didn't know which way to turn," he said.

Douglas Gomm, of Herne Bay, was also one of those to make the trip to London on Tuesday - a day fortunately blessed with good weather.

He was appointed the Sheriff of Canterbury in 1987 and his work with the public and voluntary sector has spanned 50 years. He admitted it was "a great honour" to have been invited.

His wife, Sheila, attended the event with him. She said: "It was really lovely. We went up by train and all the ladies had their hats in their bags, so you could tell who was going to the garden party."

And gaining entry is no mean feat with security being, unsurprisingly, taken very seriously.

"We queued up for quite a while outside Buckingham Palace," Mrs Gomm explained.

"We were given cards to take with us when we received the invitations and we had to show our passport and driver's licence to get into the palace."

"We went through the palace itself and out into the garden. There were two bands playing in different parts of the garden and a long tea tent. We sat and chatted to other people at the



GRAND: The magnificent Buckingham Palace welcomed thousands through its gates this week for the first of its summer garden parties

tea table, there were a few people wearing chains of office. Everyone was so kind to us."

With the gardens being closed to the public, the garden parties allow a unique insight into what lies behind the palace walls that would never be gained otherwise.

Sharon McNaboe, of Sheerness, who runs youth club Sheppey Youth Action, said: "The gardens are fantastic, so well kept. They are so much bigger than you think they would be."

"There is a big lake in the middle, a lot of flowers and it is so pretty."

Catering for such an event is no small scale affair. More than 27,000 cups of tea, 20,000 sandwiches and 20,000 slices of cake are served over the course of the day.

"There was a chocolate cake with a crown on it, it was a lovely day out," said Keith Wyncoll, of Gravesend, who carries out work with ethnic minority communities and disabled groups.

At 4pm, the national anthem was played and the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh, accompanied by other members of the royal family, made their way into the garden.

Although they knew they would see her, guests were told that only a small number of invited people would be able to actually speak to her. She also has her tea in a separate tent.

Mr Wyncoll said: "We were standing a few feet away from the Queen when she spoke to two Paralympians who had won medals in the Sochi Games."

And others caught sight of her too.



READY: Keith Wyncoll from Gravesend before entering the party and, right, the Queen mingles with the crowds



"She went round through the garden and we got a really good view of her. She looked lovely, she was in yellow," said Mrs Gomm.

"Behind her, which was a real treat, was Prince Charles and Camilla. She was in royal blue. And behind them were Prince Edward and Sophie, so we had six for the price of one."

"It was such a delight at the end of the afternoon when we happened to be in the right place when she walked past."

The event provides the perfect opportunity to honour the hard work that people carry out in their communities.

And many of the people who at-

tended are unsure who actually recommended them.

"It was quite a thrill, I had no idea," said Mr Wyncoll. "It was a nice day out for my wife too, Natthinee. She bought a posh frock and we both went and really enjoyed it."

"It was such a memorable day," added Mrs McNaboe.

"It was a real surprise and I don't know who nominated me. I have worked with children and young people on the island for many, many years so I thought it might be someone who knew me through work."

"I was so honoured."

And the parties are not over yet,

with two more taking place on May 20 and 28.

Nigel Beever, of Canterbury, will be attending on May 20 - this coming Wednesday.

He has been a tireless voluntary fundraiser, charity trustee and treasurer in a variety of east Kent charities and foundations for the last 15 years.

He said: "I am very much looking forward to it."

"My wife and I will be going. I have never seen the back of Buckingham Palace and the garden, so I think that will be super."

"It's a great honour and will be great fun I'm sure."

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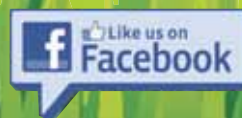
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CONFUSIONS: It can be a huge strain on loved ones

Raising the awareness of dementia generation

It is becoming a bigger issue for more and more people. **Jamie Weir** looks at how an awareness week aims to help

IMAGINE waking up in a world where your loved ones have become strangers, your memories have faded and you're left feeling isolated and alone, confused by the very people who are closest to you.

That's the life many of those living with dementia face, and it is why starting today (May 17) and running until May 23, the Alzheimer's Society is asking the nation to support Dementia Awareness Week.

Dementia is an umbrella term, used to describe particular symptoms that affect the brain. These may have been caused by different things, such as stroke or diseases, leading to different types of dementia like Alzheimer's – the most common type – and vascular dementia, which is caused when oxygen supply to the brain fails, perhaps as a result of a stroke.

Dr Venkat Reddy, from the NHS Thanet Clinical Commissioning Group, told KoS: "Dementia is a condition of the brain which causes a gradual loss of mental ability, including problems with memory, understanding, judgement, thinking and language.

"It can also lead to changes in personality and the way a person interacts with others in social situations. As dementia progresses, it may affect a person's ability to look after themselves. One common symptom is memory loss. This could include problems remembering recent events, such as forgetting messages, remembering routes or names, or asking the same questions repeatedly.

"Occasional examples of this need not be alarming, as they can be a natu-

ral part of getting older, but if they do become more frequent, it's important to seek medical advice."

The awareness raising week aims to encourage as many people as possible to talk about the issue, highlighting the key struggles those diagnosed with dementia face. Its rise carries particular significance given our ageing population and the fact we are living for longer – thus becoming more susceptible to illnesses such as dementia. Currently, the country has around 850,000 people diagnosed with dementia, but by 2021, it's predicted this will grow to more than one million.

One local authority which is taking the issue seriously is Ashford Borough Council (ABC). Its health and wellbeing board – which can influence health and social care commissioning decisions in the borough – has made dementia one of its key priorities.

As part of this, the council is currently in the process of spearheading the redevelopment of one of its sheltered housing schemes, but this time, it has chosen to make it a leading national example of 'dementia friendly design'.

Spokesman for the council, Mark James, told KoS that it is estimating around 40 per cent of the borough will be over the age of 50 by 2026, with potential for many residents of its scheme to have dementia.

He said: "Thought needs to be given when creating surroundings for those with a visual and cognitive impairment such as dementia. Interior design can improve quality of life. Light, colour schemes and furniture are, therefore, important considerations when



HELP: Understanding of the illness is key to the way we treat it as a society

trying to make a sheltered housing scheme attractive and practical for its older residents.

"For instance, excessive signage can make a place feel less homely and lines on flooring can be confusing. So the layout of the building will be logical, avoiding long corridors but creating memorable landmark points to create confidence in those who live there, and a welcoming environment for those who visit."

It isn't just buildings that are needed though; people living with dementia are often in need of specialist care. The Carers Trust is a charity which supports carers, many of whom look after relatives with dementia.

Policy and development manager for the charity, Ruth Hannan said: "Those with dementia often have personality changes as a result of it, which can cause frustration and anger for them. Carers can find it a real strain on their emotions as their loved ones change, and they may end up feeling isolated as a result.

"With funding cuts we're seeing in social care provision, and stretched public authorities, carers are often saying they just don't have the support they need. This can end up being quite counter-productive, as carers may well end up have their own health and wellbeing problems as a result, which may mean they're unable to act as a person's carer as a result. We want people to know that they aren't alone, and we're working across Kent, help-

ing to support carers where necessary, but more still needs to be done."

With no known cure, some people are more likely to end up with dementia though, with lifestyle choices playing a part in increasing a person's chances.

Dr Reddy said: "Unfortunately we don't know why some people develop dementia and others don't. What we do know is that several things can affect your risk of developing dementia, including your age, health and lifestyle.

"The older you are, the higher your chance of developing dementia. Between the age of 65 and 74, one or two people in 100 will have dementia. By the age of 95, a quarter of people will have it. However, dementia is not a normal part of ageing. It's different to the age-associated memory impairment that is common in older people.

"Some people are known to have a higher risk of dementia, including people with Down's syndrome or Parkinson's disease. High blood pressure, smoking, high cholesterol levels and lack of exercise can all increase your risk of developing dementia.

"Dementia is not an inherited disease, however there is a small extra risk of getting dementia if you have a mother, father or sibling with dementia."

Though dementia is expected to rise in importance, the Alzheimer's Society says that not enough funding for research is being poured into it.

HOW YOU CAN HELP TODAY...



ONE national initiative which has been launched to help raise awareness of the issue is the Dementia Friends scheme.

Anyone can become a friend – it basically means that you understand the different challenges of living with dementia, and are willing to commit to helping those living with it wherever possible.

The amount of time and effort you put in is down to you – allowing individuals the choice to become as involved as they want to.

Actions can be as simple as taking time with someone showing the signs of dementia or highlighting the symptoms via social media and your personal network.

Or, they can be more involved, with some dementia friends choosing to volunteer with groups that help people affected by dementia.

For those who want to get even more involved, there is training available to become a Dementia Champion – once trained, they go on to spearhead the initiative, giving training to new friends.

Companies have also got involved in the scheme, with big high street names like Marks & Spencer and Lloyds Banking Group helping their staff become Dementia Friends – M&S ended up training its entire 79,600 strong staff nationwide.

Dr Doug Brown, director of research at the charity, said: "Dementia is one of the biggest health and social care challenges that the country faces today. Despite improvements in funding, this area of research is still neglected compared with other major health conditions. Investments in research into cancer and heart disease have delivered treatments and even some cures and we need to see the same in dementia.

"There's a huge amount of progress currently being made by the dementia research community, but until there is more funding, we are limited in how quickly we can make life-changing discoveries. The Alzheimer's Society has pledged to spend at least £100 million on dementia research over the next decade – more than ever before – but if we're going to improve the quality of care, develop better treatments and ultimately cure dementia we need politicians to pledge continued commitment and set out an ambition to create a step change in research funding."



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17 SOLD OUT July 2015	4	21st July 2015	HB	Fri-Tues	£425	£645
10th Aug 2015	6	16th Aug 2015	HB	Mon-Sun	£510	£845
31st Aug 2015	4	4th Sept 2015	HB	Mon-Fri	£425	£685
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2 Adult + 1 Child..... £120

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COOL: Legendary musicians in the Ronnie Scott All Stars Quintet are heading our way later this year

The jazz sounds of Soho to hit the road this summer

June and July will see notable names from the musical world come to Kent...

DARTFORD'S Orchard Theatre will be offering a double programme of jazz this summer.

The venue's bill is set to include musicians from the world-famous Ronnie Scott's Jazz club.

The first performance will take place on June 17.

The Ronnie Scott's All Stars Quintet will present The Ronnie Scott's Story.

This five-piece mix classic music from the jazz greats who have performed at Ronnie Scott's.

These performers including names like Count Basie and Miles Davis.

According to a spokesman: "The Ronnie Scott story celebrates one of the world's most famous jazz venues, it's music, and history.

"Since 1959 the tradition at Ronnie Scott's has always been to

have house musicians.

"That tradition continues with The Ronnie Scott All Stars Quintet, led by pianist and Ronnie Scott's club musical director, James Pearson."

The club originally opened in 1959. Mr Scott, a saxophonist wanted a place where local musicians could jam - and a small basement club in London's west end fit the bill perfectly.

He wanted a club modelled on the swinging jazz clubs and buzzing scene of New York's 52nd Street - throughout its history, the venue has played host to some of the finest musical talent of the 20th century.

A spokesman says: "Today, in its new home in buzzing Soho, Ronnie Scott's is one of the world's most famous jazz clubs.

"It attracts full to bursting audiences practically every night.

"Since the early days of Sarah Vaughn, Count Basie and Miles Davis, the club continues to present the biggest names in jazz.

"All of these musicians shun the concert halls in favour of the intimate and welcoming environs of the club.

"Ronnie Scott's is also a club firmly on the cutting edge.

"It is the first place to catch hotly-tipped rising stars, visionary artists and the next big thing."

The band always strives to exemplify the classic sound of the great era of jazz and is a true reflection of the band that Mr Scott himself toured with.

The second jazz offering sees The Chris Barber Band appear at The Orchard Theatre as part of his 65th anniversary tour on July 29.

Inspired by the King Oliver Creole Jazz Band, Mr Barber formed his first band in 1949 at

the age of 19 and has since gone on to become not only Europe's most successful and influential band leaders, but a bona fide jazz legend.

With his 10-piece band, featuring a 7-strong front line, he plays a selection of his favourite music from his roots in New Orleans-style in Bourbon Street Parade to the early music of Duke Ellington and Sidney Bechet before going back to When the Saints.

The Ronnie Scott's All Stars perform on June 17, and The Chris Barber Band on July 29.

To find our more information about either of the shows, you can visit the theatre's website at orchardtheatre.co.uk.

Alternatively, for information or to buy tickets, you can call the box office at the Orchard Theatre on 01322 220000.

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Getting acquainted with the 'big beast' bison this half term

By Maria Chiorando

maria.chiorando@archant.co.uk

PORT Lympne Reserve near Ashford will be hosting a series of special half term events.

Visitors to the wild animal park between May 23 and May 31 can get involved in a number of free activities.

There will be games, animal talks and feeds, as well as the mighty beast quiz, where a bespoke VIP safari for up to six people is up for grabs.

Adrian Harland, animal director said: "May half term is the perfect time to visit Port Lympne for a family day out.

"Our mighty beast quiz will be open for entries every day, visitors just need to pick up an entry form at the Gatehouse when they come in and pop the completed entry in the box when they leave.

"We'll pick the winner at random from all the correct entries and the winner will be notified on June 5."

In the spotlight throughout the week will be the park's European bison.

Visitors will have the opportunity to see the impressive animals –



MAGNIFICENT: European bison

the largest living mammal in Europe – and the Malayan tapirs, one of the largest species of tapir every day.

The European bison was once widespread throughout Europe and parts of Northern Asia but by 1900, hunting for skins, horns and sport had driven them to virtual extinction in the wild. With the onset of World War I and the Russian Revolution, numbers dwindled.

Now they are making a comeback at the reserve.

Port Lympne Reserve is one of the largest wild animal parks in the UK and home to Kent's only safari experience.

Visitors can board a safari truck to see giraffe, wildebeest, black rhino, ostrich, zebra and antelope, plus enjoy walking routes to see western lowland gorillas, big cats, small cats and primates.

Profits from the parks and accommodation at Port Lympne Reserve go towards helping conservation charity the Aspinall Foundation's efforts to save rare and endangered species, both in the UK and overseas.

For further information including opening times, discounted online tickets, annual passes and special events please visit www.aspinallfoundation.org.uk.

Folk group take to stage

FOLK group The Unthanks will be performing at the Theatre Royal, Margate, on October 29 at 7.30pm.

It is part of a short tour to mark their 10th anniversary. Call 01843 292795 to book.



Folkestone date for Jim

COMEDIAN Jim Davidson will be performing his new show Charlton Nil at the Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone, on November 22.

Tickets are available to buy now and prices start at £23.50.

For more information, or to book, call the box office on 0844 871 3015.

Laughs galore in show

FUSING dance, verbatim text and chocolate cake, new show Private View will be performed at the Marlowe Studio, Canterbury, on May 22 at 8pm.

Tickets are £12.

Call 01227 787787 to book.



The Magna Carta Musical

A BRAND new musical celebrating the Magna Carta will be staged in Canterbury.

The Magna Carta Musical: Song of a New Age will be at St Paul's Church on June 18 at 7.30pm and tickets for the performance are £10.

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Top of the Bots on coast

LA-BASED alt-rock/pop-punk brothers Mikaiah and Anaiah Lei, also known as The Bots will play in Ramsgate Music Hall on May 22.

Tickets cost £8, visit www.allgigs.co.uk.



Almost Fleetwood Mac

TRIBUTE band Fleetwood Bac will be performing at The Hazlitt Theatre in Maidstone.

The show takes place on June 6 at 8pm.

Tickets cost £15.

To find out more information, or to buy tickets, visit www.parkwoodtheatres.co.uk.

Yo ho ho and a bottle...

THE STAGE adaptation of Robert Louis Stephenson's Treasure Island comes to Tunbridge Wells' Trinity Theatre from June 14 until 19.

For more information, visit www.trinitytheatre.net.



Drift away with the music

THE DRIFTERS, one of the biggest selling and longest serving bands in history, will be performing at Folkestone's Leas Cliff Hall on June 18.

Tickets cost from £27.90.

For more information, visit the website at www.atgtickets.com/venues/leas-cliff-hall

Host of famous faces celebrate panto launch

By Maria Chiorando

maria.chiorando@archant.co.uk

TV STARS Rita Simons and Phil Gallagher launched this year's Marlowe Theatre pantomime in Canterbury this week.

Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs will be the first panto for Ms Simons who plays Roxie Mitchell in EastEnders - but it's Mr Gallagher's 11th and his third at The Marlowe.

Ms Simons said the theatre - and the city - came highly recommended to her by TV soap colleagues Scott Maslen and Samantha Womack, who have appeared in the last two pantomimes. She said: "I've been asked to do pantomime a few times before but always said no, mainly because of the location and the fact that my children were too young. They are now nine, and will be nearly 10 when I'm here, so are that little bit more independent if I'm away working."

"Also, of all the places to do pantomime, Canterbury is the best; it's a beautiful city."

Ms Simons will play the Wicked



Queen in Snow White.

Mr Gallagher, 38, returns to The Marlowe as Muddles.

As CBeebies Mister Maker, on children's TV, he is in the middle of a hectic year: he is finishing a series of shows at Butlins across the UK and then goes to Australia in June and July for a tour of all the big cities, including Sydney's Opera House.

He said: "I'm so glad to be coming home to The Marlowe for a third time."

They will be joined by Ben Roddy (Nurse Nellie) and Lloyd Hollett (Herman The Henchman), both

seasoned Marlowe performers.

Pantomime producer Paul Hendy said: "This was the first time the cast have all got together and it was great to see how they immediately gelled. It's going to be good to work with them from November, when rehearsals start, and I know the end result will be a great show."

Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs is at The Marlowe Theatre from November 27 to January 10, 2016.

For more details and to book tickets, call the Box Office on 01227 787787, or go to marlowetheatre.com.



CLASSIC: Snow White is a much loved story



EXPERIENCED: The cast gear up for this year's panto

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Bridge Haven care home provides care with compassion for those living with dementia. The home offers care and comfort, but also introduces a new, positive and more engaging stage in the lives of its residents who live there.

The team of attentive, experienced and skilled staff provide 24 hour care in a pleasant, homely environment. Services provided at Bridge Haven include full time residential care, day care and short term respite care known as the homes 'My Time'service.

All rooms at Bridge Haven are bright and cheerful with many bedrooms having en-suite facilities providing relaxation and a sense of well-being.

Other facilities include the 'Snug' - a pub like facility for residents to enjoy and socialise and Gregory's tea room, situated in one of the two attractively laid gardens.

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The secret to gluten free but flavoured cooking

What options do you have if wheat makes you ill? **Kate Whiting** discovers some delicious alternatives

FROM your first spoonful of cereal at breakfast, to that lunchtime sandwich and cupcake teatime treat, much of what we eat every day contains wheat, and with it, the protein that forms gluten.

Now imagine you were Italian and you'd grown up eating pasta and pizza. You'd trained as a chef to cook the meals you love and then one day, you're diagnosed with coeliac disease and have to stop eating them altogether. This is exactly what happened to 63-year-old Giancarlo Caldesi, who runs two restaurants and a cookery school with his British wife Katie, and who also suffers from type 2 diabetes.

"I close my eyes and think of original pizza in Naples – best pizza ever –

and it makes me want to sit down and cry," admits the father of two boys, when we meet in London cookery school La Cucina Caldesi.

Just the day before, after a three-year struggle with "debilitating" symptoms, he'd finally had the official diagnosis from his doctor following positive blood test results. Caused by the immune system reacting to gluten, coeliac disease affects one in 100 people, with symptoms including bloating, diarrhoea, constipation, tiredness, mouth ulcers, sudden weight loss, hair loss and anaemia.

The only treatment is to entirely cut out gluten from the diet, which includes cutting wheat, barley and rye, in order to manage symptoms and avoid a host of serious long-term



CHEF: Giancarlo Caldesi

complications.

Together, Mr Caldesi and his artist wife, who met in 1997 when she came to paint a mural at his first restaurant, devised a menu that is tasty and wholesome, filling but not draining.

Over a buzzy four hours, we make 10 recipes, some from ancient Rome, such as Lagana Seeded Wine Crackers with gluten-free ground flaxseeds and buckwheat flour, a delicious cake with no sugar or gluten, with the very tempting sounding title Black Bean and Sweet Potato Chocolate Mud Cake – and my personal highlights, Sweet Potato and Buckwheat Pizza and Courgetti.

The latter, 'spaghetti' made from courgettes, is something of a revelation. Very quick and fun to make, us-

ing a spiralizer which shreds the courgette into curly strips, it tastes like a healthier version of the real thing. Katie tells me her 12 and 14-year-old boys don't even notice the difference, as long as she peels the courgette first to disguise the green.

On this new diet, Giancarlo has lost 11 kilos and feels like a new man: "From the top of my head, three quarters of my body is feeling completely different, liberated actually, full of life. I can rationally think straight and faster, and the magical thing is it's lasting.

"And also now, if I eat something wrong, I know immediately because of the pain. And I don't eat those things, because I have decided to be well is worth more."

Magna Carta event

AN event commemorating the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta will be held at Archbishops Palace, Maidstone, on June 15 at 7pm.

Local folksinger Paul Carbuncle will perform Kentish songs and poetry will be recited by Philippa Jevons, with the evening ending with a plainchant (a medieval chant) from the time of the Magna Carta. Tickets cost £7.50. To book call 03000 414404.

Dealing with difficulty

A NEW play about depression and the lengths that we will go to, to protect the people that we love will be performed at the Folkestone Quarterhouse on Thursday (May 21).

Every Brilliant Thing by Duncan McMillan is based on both true stories and fiction, and involves members of the audience to make the show unique.

For tickets, visit www.quarterhouse.co.uk

Victorian tale on stage

CLASSIC tale The Picture of Dorian Gray will be performed at the Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone, on Thursday (May 21).

Set in the decadent world of Victorian London, the play tells the story of the young Dorian Gray, who becomes obsessed with a portrait that his friend Basil Hallward has painted of him and makes a deal that he will stay young while the picture grows old.

For tickets, call 01622 758611.

Author launches book

AUTHOR Miriam McGuirk is launching her new book, Shattered Dreams and Scorpions at Midnight, at The Townhouse Hotel, Maidstone, on June 4.

It is the first book in the author's Tales From Turkey series.

Ms McGuirk, from Maidstone, previously wrote under the pen name Josie Maguire, and this is the first book under her real name. The event starts at 6pm.

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TRAVEL REVIEW: Pluckley

By Maria Chiorando

EVERYONE wants a slice of the good life. But the idea of plucking fresh vegetables out of the ground and putting them straight on your plate, or gathering freshly laid eggs from free-range hens, is little more than a pipe-dream for most.

Gooseberry Field Campsite is a glamping site (glamorous camping) in Pluckley. The owners, who describe themselves as 'aging hippies' decided to leave their stressful lifestyle in the city to find a simpler, more relaxed way of life, surrounded by acres of open space and bird song.

The idea is that anyone who wants a short, peaceful retreat, can come to their site and enjoy all the benefits of being in a rural idyll, without any of the hassle.

Perfect for a night or two away from real life, we threw a single bag in the car and drove to the five acre site.

The tents (which are plusher than many hotel rooms) are decked out with different themes, including shabby-chic, nautical, and rustic. There is also an ultra-luxe tipi. We were in the rustic tent, which was furnished with homely textured fabrics, warm rugs and stripy Missoni blankets.

Every detail has been taken care of, including battery-operated candles.

Tents are provided with a fire pit for barbecuing - guests at the site need only bring their food.

There is a range of crockery provided, as well as chopping boards, knives, and tea towels.

Upon our arrival, we unpacked, then started to make a fire to cook vegetable kebabs and chicken. We forgot to bring skewers, but were immediately given some.



LUXURY: Inside a luxury bell tent, and the hot tub

The other glampers included some couples, and a young family - everyone is friendly, and there is the opportunity to socialise if you wish, as well as have a dip in the hot-tub.

While the tents are private, there is a shared terrace, which has a brick-built pizza oven.

The terrace is the social hub of the site, where any communal eating, drinking and mingling takes place. That evening, one of the campers

made fresh pizza dough.

After leaving it to rise on a boiler, she rolled out rounds for everyone to share. When the tomato crop is ready, the produce will be taken straight from the ground as a pizza topping, with the herb garden providing seasoning for the food.

The whole ethos behind the business is sustainability, and being eco-friendly.

This translates very well to the customers, as they are able to receive the freshest and most local supplies, and it can be seen in all of the amenities, including the toilets.

Unlike the horror of festival toilets, these were very clean. Rather than chemicals, sawdust is thrown into the toilet after it is used.

The tank is emptied, and the waste used as fertiliser - a brilliantly environmentally sustainable alternative to artificial fertilisers.

TRAVEL FACTS

Maria Chiorando went glamping with Gooseberry Field Campsite (www.gooseberryfieldcampsite.com).

■ The site offers a number of packages, from £20 to pitch your own tent, to £195 for a weekend in a luxury bell tent.

■ Seasonal opening from May to September.

The site has been up and running for about a month, and while it is already ready for holidays, there are developments in the pipeline: there are already rows of apple trees that have been planted to create an orchard, with more soon to go in the ground. There may also be more animals on site soon, possibly sheep or pigs.

I was a little apprehensive about sleeping in a tent.

I had only been camping once, several years before. It was March, freezing cold, and my partner forgot the sleeping bags.

After a painful few hours on the stony ground in a leaky tent, with nothing but a towel as a blanket, I retired angrily to the car, and swore off camping forever.

That's why glamping is a good alternative - with a proper futon bed, duvet and extra blankets, it is no less cosy than a hotel. And with the rain lashing down, it was amazing to be close to the elements, but warm and dry.

While it is possible to bring your own tent, for the full experience, it is well-worth sleeping in one already on site. While I may never attempt camping again, I am a full-convert to glamping.

Film Reviews by Damon Smith



MAD MAX: FURY ROAD
(15, 120 mins) Action/Sci-Fi/Thriller

FASTEN your seat belts and hold on white-knuckle tight as writer-director George Miller invites you to an orgy of high-octane auto mayhem that makes Fast & Furious

7 looks like a sedate Sunday afternoon drive.

Computer trickery is kept to a bare minimum: stunt drivers actually performed these mind-boggling feats in real vehicles at dizzying speeds.

Director Miller's rambunctious ride is heightened by a deafening soundtrack courtesy of Grammy-nominated composer Junkie XL.

You'll feel the teeth rattle in your head as his sonic boom of drums, strings, thrashing electric guitars and a soaring 80-voice choir competes with the crash-bang-wallop of the on-screen carnage.

PITCH PERFECT 2
(12A, 115 mins) Comedy/Musical/Romance

LIGHTNING almost strikes twice in the eagerly anticipated sequel to

the feel-great comedy Pitch Perfect.

Fat Amy suffers a wardrobe malfunction during a Miley Cyrus-themed aerial routine and drags the good name of Barden University into the gutter.

Pitch Perfect 2 hits many of the high notes of the original film.

Banks and Higgins lasso some of the heartiest guffaws, the latter spewing chauvinism with aplomb as he casually describes the Bellas as "an inspiration to girls all over the country who are too ugly to be cheerleaders".

Musical sequences are choreographed with verve, including a rousing finale that astutely goes back to acca-basics to tug the heartstrings

A ROYAL NIGHT OUT
(12A, 97 mins) Comedy/Drama/Romance



IN this celebrity-obsessed age of 24-hour social media and omnipresent paparazzi, it's inconceivable that younger members of the royal family could mingle with us, the unwashed hoi polloi, without attracting attention.

A Royal Night Out is timed perfectly to coincide with the 70th anniversary of VE Day and an air of

wistful nostalgia blows through every frame of Jarrold's perky picture. The script predominantly opts for laughter rather than lamentation, and is careful not to offend with a simmering romantic subplot between Elizabeth and Jack. There's nothing here that will have the filmmakers entering the Tower Of London through Traitor's Gate.

IF YOU think ivy kills trees, watering scorches leaves and digging is always needed to control weeds, think again.

The Royal Horticultural Society is putting the record straight on a number of old wives' tales which have worked their way into the gardening psyche.

Here, Guy Barter, RHS chief horticultural adviser, busts open some of the most famous myths. For starters, the myth that ivy kills trees is under the spotlight.

Mr Barter says: "Ivy is thought to seldom kill trees of itself, but the presence of ivy indicates the very strong suspicion of root disease especially honey fungus doing serious harm to the host and allowing the ivy to flourish under the diminished canopy."

That's that sorted.

Another idea people have is that wild flowers are easy to cultivate.

Not true, according to Mr Baeter.

"Gardens are often just too rich and fertile for wild flowers so that the desirable flowers fade away and rampant grasses take over," he says.

"Mixes of annual flowers that resemble wild flowers on the other hand are easy and highly beneficial to many insects and a wiser choice for fertile gardens."

Another idea that has passed into common thought is that water drops on leaves cause burning from the sun's rays.

Mr Barter says: "To focus sunlight, a water droplet needs to be above the leaf, and this can very occasionally happen with hairy-leaved plants (French beans for example) but in al-



FALLACIES: Even competent gardeners can fall for the odd old wives' tale

Busting the gardening myths

most all cases scorching is not caused by wet leaves.

"Spraying leaves with pesticides or liquid fertiliser in sunny conditions can cause harm, however, as the water evaporates and the chemicals become concentrated, so can harm foliage."

What about the idea that digging is required to control weeds?

Mr Barter says: "The main reason

for digging weeds is control, as burial of weeds is highly effective.

"But if weeds are controlled by other means such as mulches, herbicides or shallow hoeing, digging can be dispensed with. The only fly in this ointment is that sometimes weed control by other means can take longer and be harder work than digging, so it is not necessarily true for every site."

On the subject of nuisance plants, many people believe moss is a problem.

According to Mr Barter: "Moss is a sign that soil is moist for prolonged periods. This happens when the soil is compacted, acidic or shaded. Moss has no roots and therefore cannot compete significantly with plant roots. In beds and borders it is a useful cover suppressing weed germination

and limiting water loss.

"In lawns moss can indicate areas where perhaps grass should not be grown, under shade for example, where alternative plantings might be required. As moss cannot withstand treading, its presence in lawns can indicate a lack of traffic and suggest that as access is not required then alternatives to lawns can be sought."

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Bank Holiday Funtime

Family-friendly cafe with seats in the sun

CAFE Solo is the best choice in Canterbury for a warm and friendly welcome and a relaxed atmosphere. What's more, their new sunny, walled garden is now open.

Situated in Wincheap Road and with plenty of seating, free WiFi and free customer parking, Cafe Solo offers something for everyone.

With child seating, they are truly family-friendly and have a great team, who are dedicated to making sure your visit

to Cafe Solo means that you will keep coming back time and again.

They offer a huge choice of meals, snacks and drinks.

You can build your own breakfast, enjoy a hot or cold sandwich, tuck into a jacket potato or one of their famous burgers.

As a licensed cafe, they can serve everything from a delicious coffee to a cold beer.

They also have a four star hygiene rating.



NEW: The cafe's new walled garden is now open for all customers to enjoy.

Fun for everyone at Eagle Heights



IMPRESSIVE: Birds of prey and more

BASED just five minutes away from Junction 3 of the M25, the Eagle Heights Wildlife Foundation is one of the largest bird of prey centres in the United Kingdom.

It boasts a wide variety of birds including bald eagles, African fish eagles, vultures and many more.

Eagle Heights is sure to impress everybody, with a number of daily flying displays occurring at the centre.

As well as this impressive selection of birds of prey, they also house huskies, meerkats, reptiles, camels, and more for everyone to enjoy.

For more information on Eagle Heights and all that they have to offer you can visit their website at www.eagleheights.co.uk.

Alternatively you can email them at office@eagleheights.co.uk or you can call them on 01322 866577.

Advertising Feature

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THERE is so much to see under the sea at Blue Reef Aquarium, Hastings.

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At the aquarium's heart is the giant ocean reef where an underwater tunnel offers breathtaking views of beautiful corals, shoals of colourful fish and a king of ocean predators – the black tip reef shark.

Explore the jungle discovery zone – housing exotic snakes, curious bearded dragons and a striking iguana – and face your fears and get hands on with reptiles during daily animal encounters.

Throughout the day there is



BEAUTIFUL: The aquarium offers breathtaking views of corals and shoals of colourful fish, as well as an ocean predator.

so much to enjoy at the Blue Reef Aquarium.

Plus your ticket is an all day pass – so you can come in and out as many times as you like.

After your visit you can grab a bite to eat in the Blue Reef Café, offering everything from hot food and drinks to ice creams.

Younger visitors can also

enjoy a delicious under the sea children's healthy lunch box in a fun-filled setting.

If you are looking for somewhere to host your child's party, the aquarium also offers a great range of themed parties.

They all include a guided tour with one of the experienced aquarists followed by a birthday tea in the café.

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IDYLIC: The hotel is right next door to the historic Leeds Castle.

In the heart of countryside

RESIDE with a regal neighbour at Mercure Maidstone Great Danes Hotel, with the majestic Leeds Castle situated just next door.

Although right in the heart of the beautiful Kent countryside, the hotel has easy access to transport links.

Ashford Eurostar terminal is an hour away by train from Maidstone East train station, located five miles away.

The rambling 26-acre

estate has plenty of space for rural walks alongside the fully-equipped Feel Good Health Club, which has everything you need to help you unwind.

Complimentary high speed WiFi is also available for guests to use throughout the hotel.

You can soak up the atmosphere in the contemporary restaurant at the Mercure Maidstone Great Danes hotel.

There, you can choose from a diverse collection of

mouth-watering dishes prepared using fresh ingredients and locally-sourced produce.

To complement your meal, you can choose from an extensive collection of fine wines; from Australia to Italy there is something to suit every palate.

Finally, indulge in one of the delicious desserts before sitting back, relaxing and allowing the experienced and helpful restaurant team to provide you with everything that you need.

Sea views and great food at Thorley's

TAKE advantage of the warm weather by the sea this May bank holiday.

Thorley Taverns offers four fantastic venues all ideally located overlooking the Channel and surrounding golden beaches with food, drinks and entertainment for all the family.

The Captain Digby, Kingsgate, offers a large indoor play area for kids, cliff top restaurant and outside dining area overlooking Kingsgate Bay.

The Tartar Frigate Seafood Restaurant has stunning views over Viking Bay and fine seafood served in the first floor restaurant.

Across the sands the Broadstairs Pavilion seats up to 100 customers, who can enjoy the views and sunshine on the recently opened conservatory with retractable roof.

Up on the cliff top, the Charles Dickens provides quality gastro food.



STUNNING: Seaside views.

Warm welcome to friendly country pub



WARM: Pints of real ale are available.

THE Waggon at Hale is an independent and family-run traditional country pub, situated on Capstone Road, Chatham.

Emma and her team are on hand to offer a warm and friendly welcome, whether you are looking for somewhere to have a good old pint of real ale, a glass of wine, or dine on their freshly prepared local food which is served all day, every day.

They also have a large

beer garden where you can soak up the sun while your children play safely in the children's play area.

They can also enjoy the small animal farm which includes pigs, a goat, chickens, rabbits and guinea pigs as well as Onions – the pub dog.

For more information about the Waggon at Hale, you can call 01634 400800 or email them at waggonathale2011@hotmail.co.uk.

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Bank Holiday Funtime

Amazing entertainment at family pub

THE Huntsman in Rochester is a friendly and welcoming family-run pub.

They pride themselves on their home cooked food, which is all sourced locally.

They serve lunch from 12pm to 3pm from Monday to Saturday, and Sunday lunch is served from 12pm to 5pm.

Their Cantonese restaurant is open Tuesday to Saturday from 7pm until late and offers a wide range of Cantonese food and a selection of

English dishes, cooked by their chef Ian – formally of the Golden Eagle at Burham.

And they have some great entertainment lined up too.

On May 22 they have FX Tribute Band performing, the ultimate Jersey Boys tribute.

This will be followed by a showaddywaddy Freddie mercury tribute, and an Elton John tribute act that starts at 8.45pm.

On May 24, there is karaoke with Job Ripley.



MUSIC: Tribute bands will perform.

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They will be open this bank holiday Monday all day.

For more details, you can email homecycles@outlook.com.

Go-karting fun at Buckmore Park

THE half term holiday in May conjures up images of maypoles and Morris dancing.

Buckmore Park has a more modern take on all that, much to the delight of youngsters.

Instead of a maypole the kids can try to achieve pole at junior club race meetings.

They will be dancing for joy when told they will be visiting the circuit for some Turn Up 'n' Drive karting fun and they are sure to want to make go-karting their hobby after driving on the same circuit once used by Lewis Hamilton.

The circuit have filled the diary with exciting things to do over the holiday period.

Turn Up 'n' Drive sessions for age groups ranging from four to 15 are available on various purpose built arrive and drive circuits.

On bank holiday Monday youngsters can move onto the main circuits as it is Family Day and the whole family can join in the fun.



EXCITING: There is fun in store for racers of all ages.

The youngest, aged four to seven, can use the Kids Mini GP Circuit where they can enjoy driving electric karts.

Those aged eight to 11 can drive 120cc petrol karts on the Club Circuit while those aged 12 to 15 can get a real buzz from driving 160cc karts on the exhilarating National Circuit. Mum, dad, gran and

granddad aren't left out either as they can drive 390cc adult karts on the National Circuit in sessions that alternate with the teens.

Twin seat thrill rides driven by Buckmore's own version of the Stig are also available.

For details of all the bank holiday fun, visit buckmore4kids.co.uk.

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Free parking for all Ashford shoppers

SHOPPERS can enjoy free parking in select council-owned car parks in Ashford and Tenterden over the May bank holiday weekend.

Ashford Borough Council will be offering free parking in both the Edinburgh Road and Flour Mills car parks.

The parking will be on offer on both days of the holiday – Sunday, May 24, and Monday, May 25.

In addition to this, parking will be free anytime after 3pm on the same days in the Station Road car park.

Visitors can also park for free all day in the Bridewell Lane car park in Tenterden on Sunday, May 24, and Monday, May 25.

Ashford Borough Council is hoping that the free parking scheme, which was rolled out in October 2014, will attract more visitors to the town centre and boost trade.

This will ultimately help to improve both high streets' fortunes.

The free parking scheme was also offered to people during the last May bank holiday weekend, over May 2 and 4, in the Edinburgh Road and Flour Mills car parks.

The scheme is one of many new initiatives that are being introduced to breathe new life into Ashford's high streets, such as Ashford Farmers' Market, T-CAT and the Love Ashford website.



SCHEME: This is one of many new initiatives that are being used to breathe life into Ashford High Street and attract visitors to the town centre to boost trade.

Organised by Ashford Borough Council and the Kent Farmers' Market Association, Ashford Farmers' Market is held on the first Sunday of

every month from 10am to 2pm on the lower High Street.

It offers the chance to snap up seasonal fruit and veg and stroll through

the cobbled streets listening to music.

All car parks that are run by Ashford Borough Council are free to use after 6pm.

For full details of the free parking available in Ashford and Tenterden you can visit the council's website at www.ashford.gov.uk/free-parking.

FREE PARKING IN ASHFORD AND TENTERDEN

Ashford Borough Council has introduced free parking at certain times in the following car parks across the borough:



ASHFORD

Edinburgh Road TN24 8LG

Free after 3pm Monday-Saturday,
free on Sundays and Bank Holidays

Flour Mills TN24 8PA

Free on Sundays and Bank Holidays



Station Road TN23 1PP

Free after 3pm Sundays and Bank Holidays

TENTERDEN

Bridewell Lane TN30 6EY

Free on Sundays and
Bank Holidays



WWW.ASHFORD.GOV.UK/FREE-PARKING

FREE PARKING

Send us your views.
Write to: Kent House,
 81 Station Road, Ashford,
 TN23 1PP
Email:
 editorial@kosmedia.co.uk
Twitter:
 @kosmedia

Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

Library petition forces debate

THE 4,000 signature 'save our public libraries' petition has achieved its first aim. On Wednesday, May 20, starting at 2pm, Kent County Council's growth, economic development and communities committee will debate the petitioners' demands.

It's a public meeting at Sessions House in Maidstone. Library supporters from across Kent are invited to gather outside Sessions House from 1pm and then go in to hear councillors' responses to the petition. Placards that remind councillors of the positive benefits of libraries will be welcome at the gathering. Please come and show your support for Kent's 99 libraries remaining a public service rather than being 'privatised' with all the risks and extra costs that would bring.

This is an important next stage. However, the supporting statement submitted by the organisers of the petition asks the committee to recommend that full council considers this issue as every KCC councillor has a library local to them and so should be involved in the debate about their future.

Richard Stainton,
Whitstable

Bizarre stance on homosexuality

ONCE again, readers have been subjected to the bizarre views of John Humphrey, who seems to be such a religious fanatic that he believes it's possible to 'pray your way out' of homosexuality.

Despite now three responses to his original letter, he has still not answered the question whether or not he believes people 'choose' to be homosexual. Too difficult for him to come to terms with, I suspect.

Not a single thought from him about the hundreds of Christian homosexuals, living their lives as best they can, whilst remaining true to their faith; and as for 'gay priests', many living with their secret every day, can they pray their way out of their torment? No, Mr Humphrey, they can't.

Christopher Hudson-Gool,
Maidstone

Final word on the gay issue?

IN final reply to John Humphrey it appears very clear that he is either

LETTER OF THE WEEK



Was Reckless choice just career suicide?

WHEN I saw your cover last week, it did seem a little premature to call Nigel Farage a 'loser'.

I certainly don't disagree with the sentiment, but Mr Farage may very well yet hang on to his political clout.

Another Ukip loser, and for me, the most intriguing story of the election belongs to Mark Reckless.

As the former MP for Rochester and Strood, he lost his seat, quite convincingly, last week.

As a Tory, he seemed to be a rising star – well liked and well-respected by his constituents and his party alike.

When he defected to Ukip, I was absolutely baffled. Surely this move was career suicide? When he won the by-election that followed his defection, his majority was much smaller.

I never held out much hope for him winning the general election.

I would love to be a fly on the wall in his house. What on earth was he thinking when he defected

to Ukip?

As a serious contender when a Conservative party politician, I can only assume he was seduced by Nigel Farage – perhaps he wanted to be a big fish in a small pond?

Mr Reckless always had a polish and political savvy that outshone all of his Ukip colleagues, with the exception of Farage himself and of course Douglas Carswell, in Clacton.

I certainly can't imagine him making racist comments on a television documentary, openly swearing at people in public or indeed using a phrase like 'ting-tong' to describe a constituent.

He must be kicking himself now – this has to be the most tragic, and predictable end to what was once a very promising career. I look forward too seeing what he does next.

G Chester
Chatham

unable or unwilling to even acknowledge that homophobia remains a very real threat to LGBT people in schools, the UK and many other places around the world.

Further, and as a former youth centre trustee where I encountered people with the issues around accepting sexuality; I re-iterate that in my view Mr Humphrey's own experiences were nothing unusual and that it's very likely that his sexuality would have settled down without any need to resort to religion.

Further, sexuality is known to

have some 'fluidity' to it throughout life in some people.

As for the Bible, I remind him that it is a book full of contradictory comments and that Jesus also pointed out that He had come to sweep away the old [Testament] views.

Lastly, it is in my view irrelevant whether the gay cure groups are more or less strident, it is the fact they have all been found to be nonsense and in some cases damaging to people. It is time for such to be put in the dustbin of history and that, whilst homophobia still sadly remains a problem, it

too will eventually be genuinely forgotten as people will all be open and comfortable with their own and others' sexuality.

Ray Duff,
Folkestone

Diabetics thank charity runners

I AM writing to offer my congratulations to all of the amazing runners who made the London Marathon such a huge success.

I especially want to say a massive well done and thank you to the 133 brave runners who took part on behalf of Diabetes UK, the charity that cares for, connects with and campaigns on behalf of all people affected by diabetes.

The money raised by our amazing marathon runners will go towards helping to make life better for the people living with diabetes in Kent as well as those who have Type 2 diabetes but don't yet know it.

Jill Steaton,
Regional fundraising manager,
Diabetes UK

Still pushing for NHS' health

I'D like to congratulate all the successful candidates in last week's general election, and thank all for their warm comments about the National Health Action Party's fight for our NHS.

We did better than any new party in over 100 years fighting their first election. The need for our campaign is ever greater now and we will be battling on, watching even more closely the direction the new Government wants to take healthcare in England.

Dr Paul Hobday,
Former parliamentary candidate
for Maidstone & The Weald

Greens pass on their thanks

WE would like to thank everybody who voted for the progressive movement that is Green politics. Such a large vote is very gratifying and we hope it is a reflection of all the work we have put into helping people and raising issues.

We will be working even harder in the coming months and years to allow more of you to see what we are about, and why voting Green is the best decision you could make.

Clive Gregory,
Medway Green Party co-ordinator

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles

The way KoS will create our unique and compelling content is to follow these 10 principles:

Kent on Sunday will:

1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.

2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.

3) Be written in clear, concise English.

4) Not be overly sensational.

5) Have a sense of humour.

6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.

7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.

8) Highlight topical issues of concern to people living in the county.

9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.

10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

We hope you enjoy Kent on Sunday.



Kings Wood, Challock

by **Terry Potter, Ashford**

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4 NIGHTS MON-FRI

1 June	£239pp
6 July	£239pp
13 July	£239pp
17 August	£239pp

Chatsworth Hotel, Worthing

June - August, 2015 • 4 nights half board, **£239pp** • Quote: CH-KOS

Worthing's Chatsworth Hotel is one of the finest hotels on the south coast. Close to the sea and a short stroll from the town centre, the Chatsworth is a 3-star hotel in a Grade II-listed building, steeped in history with a distinctive Georgian frontage. Well known locally for offering impeccable service and a warm welcome, the hotel has a silver tourism award for quality. A well-stocked games room, has two slate-bedded Snooker tables, a pool table, table tennis, darts and a skittle alley. All bedrooms are en-suite and a lift services all floors.

INCLUDED: 4 nights stay at Chatsworth Hotel sharing a twin/double bedded room with en-suite facilities • 4 dinners and 4 breakfasts



4 NIGHTS MON-FRI

29 June	£209pp
13 July	£209pp
5 Oct	£209pp

3 NIGHTS FRI-MON

7 Aug	£169pp
14 Aug	£169pp
9 Oct	£169pp

Hotel Piccadilly, Bournemouth

June - Oct, 2015 • 3 or 4 nights half board, from **£169pp** • Quote: PH-KOS

The Hotel Piccadilly is a privately-owned 3-star hotel situated close to the town centre and a short walk from Bournemouth's award winning beaches. The Hotel is comfortable and stylish with long-serving staff providing warm, friendly and welcoming atmosphere. The Lounges are spacious, yet with quiet corners in which to relax. All the bedrooms have en-suite bathrooms and colour TV as well as tea and coffee facilities.

INCLUDED: 3 or 4 nights sharing a standard twin/double-bedded en suite room • Breakfast and dinner each day



4 NIGHTS MON-FRI

18 May	£109pp
8 June	£119pp
15 June	£119pp
22 June	£119pp
6 July	£139pp
13 July	£139pp
20 July	£139pp
3 Aug	£139pp
10 Aug	£139pp
31 Aug	£139pp

3 NIGHTS FRI-MON

5 June	£89pp
19 June	£89pp
23 July	£109pp
17 July	£109pp
7 Aug	£109pp
14 Aug	£109pp

Grand Burstin Hotel, Folkestone

May-August, 2015 • 3 or 4 nights half board, from **£89pp** • Quote: GB-KOS

The Grand Burstin Hotel is set in a prime position overlooking Folkestone Harbour. It is renowned as one of the UK's top entertainment hotels, so you can relax, dine in style and be entertained all under one roof. Cabaret shows are performed every evening - fantastic entertainment for all ages! The Spindles Health Club has an indoor heated Swimming pool, sauna and a state of the art gym (£4 per session payable on site).

INCLUDED: 3 or 4 nights sharing a twin/double-bedded en suite room • Breakfast and dinner each day • Entertainment every night • Free wifi

Original 70s band Brotherhood of Man



Free Drinks
£10pp deposit
Entertainment
Over 40s only

Pontins Pakefield

Christmas Cracker Party through the Decades

20 November, 2015 • 3 nights half board-plus, **£129pp** • Quote: CC11-KOS

Join us for an over 40s Christmas party weekend to remember as we re-wind the decades and go back to the 60s, 70s and 80s at Pontins Pakefield, by the sea near Lowestoft, Suffolk. Our great entertainment bill includes original 70s band Brotherhood of Man, 60s rockers The Swinging Blue Jeans and the new touring show Whitney - Queen of The Night. Add 3 Free Drinks per person per night and you've got the perfect recipe for a great party weekend.

INCLUDED: 3 Free drinks every night • house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners • Full entertainment programme • 3 nights en-suite chalet • upgrade available • Towels & linen



4 NIGHTS MON-FRI

6 July	£139pp
27 July	£139pp
3 August	£139pp
10 August	£139pp
24 August	£139pp

Bosworth Hall Hotel, Leicestershire

July - August, 2015 • 4 nights half board, **£139pp** • Quote: BS-KOS

Enjoy a great value, relaxing summer break at Bosworth Hall Hotel, set in 11 acres of landscaped gardens in the village of Market Bosworth near Leicester. The hotel has a leisure club with an indoor pool, gym, tennis courts, bike hire and more - extra charge applies. There's plenty to see and do within a short drive of Market Bosworth; Twycross Zoo, West Midlands Safari Park and Drayton Manor Park are close by as are Bosworth Water Trust and the National Forest.

INCLUDED: 4 nights stay at Bosworth Hall Hotel sharing a twin/double bedded room with en-suite facilities • 4 dinners and 4 breakfasts



3 NIGHTS MON-THURS

3 August	£189pp
10 August	£189pp
17 August	£189pp
31 August	£189pp

Ettington Chase Hotel, Stratford-upon-Avon

August, 2015 • 3 nights half board, **£189pp** • Quote: EC-KOS

Ettington Chase is a stylish, luxury hotel near Stratford-upon-Avon. Set in 11 acres of beautifully landscaped grounds in the heart of Shakespeare country, Ettington Chase elegantly combines a beautiful historic building with modern facilities including an elegant restaurant bar with a reputation for quality cuisine. All bedrooms are en-suite with wireless high-speed Internet access and flat-screen HD TVs. The leisure club has a pool, sauna and tennis courts.

INCLUDED: 3 nights sharing a standard twin/double-bedded en suite room • Breakfast and dinner each day • Free wifi



3 NIGHTS FRI-MON

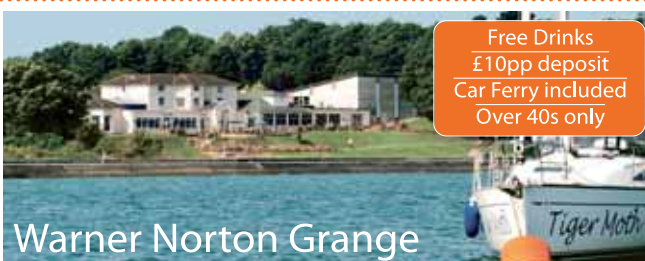
7 August	£179pp
14 August	£179pp
21 August	£179pp
28 August	£179pp

4-star Beaumont Estate, Windsor

August, 2015 • 3 nights half board, **£179pp** • Quote: BE-KOS

Set in 40 acres of stunning parkland on the edge of historic Windsor, Beaumont Estate is a majestic hotel. There's a vast range of attractions nearby including Windsor Great Park, Legoland, Thorpe Park, Windsor Castle and Windsor Racecourse. The bedrooms are charming, cosy, and thoughtfully furnished to create a relaxing environment after a long day of exploration. All have en-suite facilities and feature wireless high-speed Internet access and flat-screen HD TVs.

INCLUDED: 3 nights sharing a standard twin/double-bedded en suite room • Breakfast and dinner each day • Free wifi



Free Drinks
£10pp deposit
Car Ferry included
Over 40s only

Warner Norton Grange

Best of the 60s & 70s Christmas Party

27 November, 2015 • 3 nights half board-plus, **£239pp** • Quote: XN11-KOS

Great Entertainment, Free Drinks, and a super location make Warner's Norton Grange resort, at Yarmouth on the Isle of Wight, our most popular Christmas Party venue. This Christmas we're featuring music from the 60s and 70s including Edison Lighthouse (*Love Grows where my Rosemary goes*) plus tributes to Dusty Springfield and Tom Jones and lots of festive and nostalgic fun. There's also a Free Bar from 6pm to midnight every night.

INCLUDED: Free drinks from 6pm to midnight every night • house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & pumped mixers • 3 dinners and 3 breakfasts • Live nightly entertainment • 3 nights en-suite chalet • upgrades available • Return car ferry

You cannot book these self-drive breaks direct with the hotels/resorts

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

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motoring reviews in...

KENT LIFE

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**FAB
FABIA:**
best
value
supermini?



**SUPERB
SKODA :**
Third
generation
of the
modern
era.

Skoda rebuilds Superb status

BRAND UPDATE: Modern third generation Czech flagship arrives soon to continue restoring model name's reputation from the 1930s, and signal Skoda ambitions...

NOT so long ago, howls of laughter would have greeted the idea of a Skoda flagship called the Superb. But the Czech brand's illustrious pre-Second World War history was indeed lit up by the luxurious Superb – good enough to be commandeered by many of Nazi Germany's generals, including Field Marshal Erwin Rommel.

However, revival of such a quality car never seemed further away than in the post-war Soviet era, until VW took over the ailing Skoda and re-launched the Superb (2002-8) nameplate with a stretched version of its own Passat.

The follow-up to this was far more impressive: genuine yet affordable luxury enhanced by clever design, while the classy estate made a mockery of dearer rivals.

Skoda is now expected to trump this with a third generation Superb (from £18,640) arriving shortly, a model to discomfit rivals unable to build a sophisticated and well-priced big car to challenge established and pricey premium brands.

Elegant-looking, it retains much clever packaging from before, even if an innovative combined hatch/boot rear lid has made way for a conventional hatchback tailgate, presumably as part of a 75-kilo weight saving over its predecessor.



**SCOUT
MOVEMENT:**
the rugged
all-wheel drive
Octavia version

But the boot is 30 litres larger: 625 litres, expanding to a huge 1,760 litres with rear seats folded.

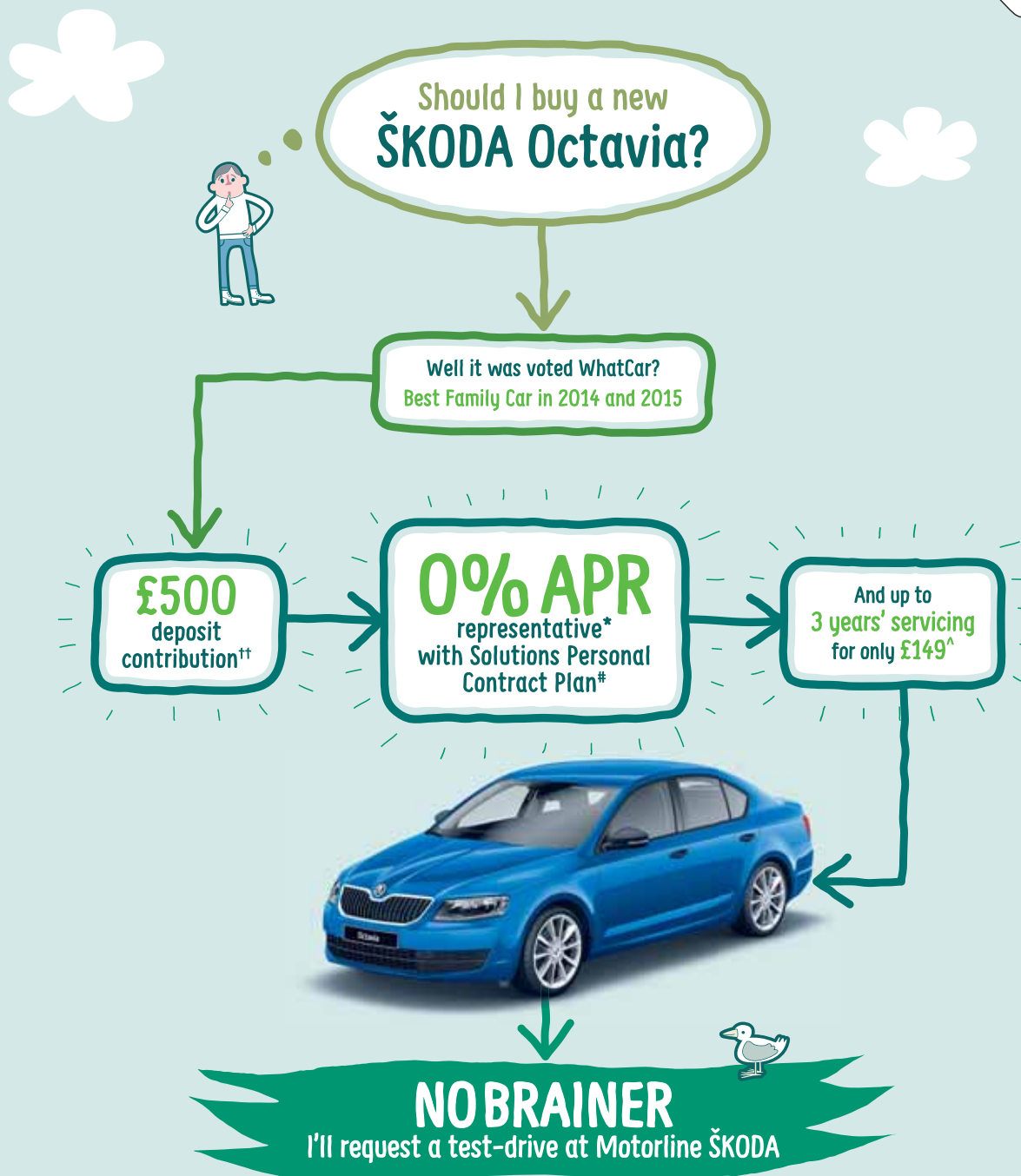
Those needing even more space can opt for the estate.

But Skoda's mainstay is the Octavia hatchback and estate (from £16,310), cleverly straddling the medium and family size car sectors – there's even a rugged Scout version

with 4x4, raised suspension and underbody protection.

However, would-be city car buyers should check out the value and space of the three or five-door Citigo (from £8,210), while the Fabia (from £10,600) is one of the best value superminis.

Skoda is also currently celebrating a triple victory in the annual Auto Express Driver Power satisfaction survey.



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#At the end of the agreement there are three options: i) retain the vehicle; pay the optional final payment to own the vehicle; ii) return the vehicle; or iii) replace: part-exchange the vehicle, subject to status.

*Available when purchased on Solutions Personal Contract Plan for the Octavia Hatch 5 1.2 TSI based on a 36-month, 30,000-mile agreement with deposits from 0-30% subject to underwriting; deposit required may be higher than the minimum, a lower deposit will result in increased monthly payments. **Up to 3 years/30,000 miles (whichever comes first) when purchased on Solutions Personal Contract Plan. †Deposit contribution is available on Octavia stock vehicles only when purchased on Solutions Personal Contract Plan and excludes any ordered vehicles. Retail sales only. Excess mileage charges of 4.4p per mile apply. Available to 18s and over. Offer available on vehicles ordered between 1 April 2015 and 30 June 2015 from participating retailers. Further charges may be payable if vehicle is returned. Offers are not available in conjunction with any other offer and may be varied or withdrawn at any time. Subject to availability. Terms and conditions apply. Finance subject to status. Accurate at time of print. Freepost ŠKODA Finance. We can introduce you to a limited number of lenders to assist with your purchase, who may pay us for introducing you to them.

Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the ŠKODA Octavia range: Urban 34.9 (8.1) to 74.3 (3.8), Extra Urban 52.3 (5.4) to 94.2 (3.0), Combined 44.1 (6.4) to 88.3 (3.2). CO₂ emissions for the ŠKODA Octavia range: 149 to 85g/km. Standard EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.

Citroën's fun C1 has 'a face that fits'

Product of a city car project with Peugeot and Toyota, Citroën's C1 seems most fun – especially the open roof 'Airscape', writes **Steve Loader...**

LOOKS are everything in the city car world. Despite the fact that fitting a two-box body around an engine and four people is one of the toughest design briefs in carmaking, buyers now want style and customisation options.

And if a friendly face clinches it, then the Citroën C1 (from £8,345) is the urban runabout for you.

With slightly wide-eyed headlamps topped by 'eyebrow' running lights and indicators, the C1 looks cheeky and matey, while its derriere is enhanced by a smoked all-glass tailgate – shades of the pioneering one on the marque's 1980s AX supermini.

Look beyond the cosmetics though and you note this is a second generation clone from a partnership between Toyota and French sister brands, Peugeot and Citroën.

First time around, only small yet sometimes clumsy efforts were made to differentiate the cars – a facelift for the Peugeot left the front end looking rather like a vacuum cleaner attachment – but each brand has recognised a need to make more effort this time in an increasingly competitive market.



So the Toyota Aygo has a slightly angry 'face' designed to attract younger buyers, the Peugeot 108 is clearly tilting at the premium/mainstream sector that the brand now aspires to, while the C1 simply looks fun – an impression enhanced by the electric rollback roof option

that costs an extra £1,000.

Known as the Airscape – the coffee at the marketing brainstorming was evidently of better quality that day – you will indeed feel that you have 'escaped' the humdrum city life as you wheel around the streets with the roof open.



And the C1 interior is also great fun with a coloured centre console dominated by a large, though sometimes clunky touchscreen.

There is a bit more space in the cabin this time and the boot is slightly bigger, but the C1 is really a car for two adults and young kids

Citroën C1 Airscape Flair 82 5-dr

Price:	from £12,035
Driving appeal:	★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★★
Best rival:	VW Up

rather than a family motor; space in the back is a bit tight and merits paying the £400 premium for the five-door versions' better access.

Out on the road you quickly suspect that much of the old car's running gear has been carried over: the ride is correctly geared to deliver high levels of comfort despite a short wheelbase, at the cost of pin sharp handling.

Nevertheless, the little C1 has enough low down power on tap from both three-cylinder petrol engines to tickle your laughing gear: the 69bhp unit has been carried over from last time, while the 82bhp – as tested here – is all-new.

Both should deliver 50mpg even round town, with far higher options if you use your C1 further afield – though I would prefer the pokier and more sophisticated 82bhp unit if you do more all-round motoring.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range (excl. Ampera): Urban: 12.7 (22.3) - 76.3 (3.7), Extra-urban: 23.9 (11.8) - 94.2 (3.0), Combined: 18.0 (15.7) - 88.3 (3.2). CO₂ emissions: 373 - 85g/km.*

*Participating Retailers only. £500 Free Fuel offer not available on VIVA, Astra 5dr / Sports Tourer Design, Tech Line and Tech Line GT and Mokka Tech Line. £500 Free Fuel will be supplied via pre-pay debit card. Purchase only, cannot be used to withdraw cash. Refer to www.vauxhall.co.uk / freefuel or contact your local Retailer for details. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1- 24 (purchase only). All other customers are excluded. Offer available on eligible new vehicle orders from 15 May to 18 May 2015. #Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. Correct at time of going to press.



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GORGEOUS flower, Ashford Kent, 51, larger lady, large personality, easy going, seeks male who likes dogs, animals for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417435

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel No: 0906 500 1912 Box No: 413399

KATIE, 5ft 5, slim dark hair, very attractive female, likes most things in life and a good laugh, looking for a similar male. Text only to Mailbox No: 4722127

ADVENTUROUS sexy lady, 38yrs, married but seeks no strings fun with discreet man, any age. I'm tall, slim and dominant. Aca. Tel No: 0906 500 1913 Box No: 415301

NICE female looking for decent genuine male for friendship to start out with. Text only to Mailbox No: 4710874

ANNE, mid 40's, cheerful busty curvy affectionate real woman! Seeks gent, any age or looks for nights at mine. Tel No: 0906 500 1914 Box No: 410291

BLONDE female, 5ft 11ins, size 12, likes meals out, drinks, nights in, walks, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409025

DISCREET lady, 42yrs wants to make you happy, come to me and let me do that for you. Aca. Tel No: 0906 500 1915 Box No: 409091

JAN 63, young at heart, petite, 5ft 2ins, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, likes cooking, countryside, travel, days out, seeks easy going male, 60-70. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416349

FEMALE seeking male for adult fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413809

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MAY sexy black African female, 38, hardworking, seeks generous friendly male for mutual rewarding friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416211

SUE young at heart, good looking, enjoy life, socialising, beach walks, gardening, theatre, seeking male, 55-65 to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416297

BECKY 23, classy blonde, long blonde hair, blue eyes seeks loving older guy to spoil and pamper her. Discretion assured/guaranteed. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416233

LINDA 26, cheeky, curvy brunette, a little shy at first, likes to look after herself, seeks dark haired male for discreet naughty but fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416195

TERESA 39, petite, cuddly and bubbly seeks kind older male to travel, have fun, and take care of, pamper and flirt with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416081

LUCY stunning tall brunette, looking for exciting times, seeks like-minded, adventurous male who is willing to try anything once or maybe even twice! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416079

PETITE blonde, blue eyes, very feminine and sensual seeks younger male for friendship and discreet fun. Can accommodate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416077

SARAH 29yr old, pretty slim single mum of one, interesting, lively, good fun, enjoys nights in/out, music, seeking similar easy going, genuine, honest man/dad to get to know. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415841

ANGIE attractive nurse 39yrs, new to area/advertising, likes dog walking, being sociable, male's intro. WLMH honest, fun male for possible ltr. looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415827

LISA attractive petite Filipino female, very lonely, wanting to find love, companionship and to be happy, looking for friendship and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415549

SUE 65, 5ft 8ins, blonde hair, fashionable, smoker, GSOH, enjoys meals out, travel, animals, WLMH kind, shyish man for friendship, maybe more. Thanet area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415735

BLONDE female, 47, looking for fun, sensual, experienced, understanding, seeking similar. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415675

INTELLIGENT funny guy without a huge ego required for damaged heart. Casey 39, size 10, curves in all the right places, pretty, kind, loving, genuine, romantic and available. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415509

BLACK lady 43, sincere, down to earth, fun loving, likes theatre, cinema, meals out, walks, seeking white gent with GSOH, sincere and down to earth. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415477

JANINE 36, faithful, sincere, will never stray seeking similar male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414629

JENNY voluptuous blonde tanned well-presented female, enjoys being and giving pampering, cooking, cosy nights, looking for some broadminded excitement. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415399

JOYCE 39, attractive GSOH, loves nights out, honest, loyal, fun to be with, looking for mature male for adult companionship, meals out and hopefully more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415561

NICOLETTE 32 petite professional attractive black female looking for similar hardworking white male who like me loves life and is serious about finding a LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415545

PAT blonde blue eyed curvy, cuddly female, attractive, likes swimming, gardening, holidays, my job/home, looking for happiness with quiet content grounded male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415533

MANDY 35, petite attractive slim female with very GSOH, likes to keep fit, meals in/out, WLMH genuine child friendly guy/dad for fun times together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415513

Men Seeking

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GENUINE fun sexy healthy guy 55, with no ties, looking to date attractive lady 45/57 for fun times and more. Text only to Mailbox No: 4711747

GARETH handsome 40's pilot, strong tall build, seeks daytime discreet passion with lady 30-65. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414421

KIND, tall, medium build, smart, easy going widower, 71 WLM Lady 60s early 70s, for easy going friendship OHAC. Text only to Mailbox No: 464128

MALE, attractive, kind, lady, gentle, no ties, looking for kind, gentle, small lady for friendship and LTR. Text only to Mailbox No: 471124

DOVER male 54 seeks female for friendship, conversation and maybe more. Text only to Mailbox No: 4682630

STU 52, looking for a sincere woman to share the long winter nights with. Text only to Mailbox No: 4699904

KEEN cyclist 58, non competitive, seeks similar female for sea wall, countryside ride, walking etc for fun, laughs and whatever. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413337

FEMALE pillion passenger sought for motor cycle rides / adventures and anything else good/bad. Any age/status, 59yr old male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416827

PETE 49, slim, 5ft 7in s, smoker, creative, likes art, live bands, outdoors, seeks similar female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416421

CHIPS on the pier, walks on the beach/countryside, VGSOH, 58yrs old, fit male, seeks female for laughs and love and whatever. NE Kent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411725

LOCAL Sevenoaks man, seeks local lady for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411727

MALE 46, wishes to meet female of similar age for fun, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415923

DAVE genuine guy, 6ft, black hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes sports, gardening, music, seeks female with GSOH and genuine. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 38372

HARRY 50, ex soldier, 6ft, well built, seeking lady to wine and dine. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417015

BARRY divorced, 6ft, well built, seeking fun time girl for good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412717

JAMES 36, well travelled, likes photography, cinema, seeks fun girl for good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337663

JAMES 39, blond hair, blue eyes, seeking female for fun times, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390892

GRAHAM tall, semi retired, Piscean, likes sailing, seeks female, any nationality. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415463

MALE blond hair, blue eyes, seeking female with GSOH, 45-60. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416445

JACKIE very pretty leggy well-mannered/educated 28yr old female, loves nights in/out, sports, WLMH sincere male up to 35yrs for friendship, hopefully ltr. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415377

DONNA 36yrs un-modest but very attractive, nice eyes, good figure, GSOH, OHAC, great job, sick of never meeting Mr Right, looking for someone special. Genuine male please. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415187

ALISON 27yr old very bored broadminded female with plenty of free time on her hands looking for some adult fun times. Call me, I won't disappoint. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415177

DEE lonely divorced female, slim, bubbly, attractive redhead, loves cuddles, looking for a man who can restore my faith in love and make me laugh. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414961

JACKIE extremely sensual lady but for your eyes-only likes horses, keeping fit, gardening looking for genuine love interest and companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414721

FEMALE pillion passenger sought for motor cycle rides / adventures and anything else good/bad. Any age/status, 59yr old male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416827

YOUNG 64yr old male, slim, GSOH, adventurous, outgoing, likes most things, seeks easygoing, laidback, open-minded lady for friendship and good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395399

KEEN cyclist 58, non competitive, seeks similar female for sea wall, countryside ride, walking etc for fun, laughs and whatever. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413337

CHIPS on the pier, walks on the beach/countryside, VGSOH, 58yrs old, fit male, seeks female for laughs and love and whatever. NE Kent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411725

JOHN 40, likes nights out, pubs, clubs, walks, countryside, GSOH, N/S, dad of one, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390119

FEMININE sensual female, slim-medium build wanted by tall, kind male for daytime meals, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414809

JON seeking female for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416771

MALE 46, wishes to meet female of similar age for fun, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415923

JACK 47, tall, good looking, average build, GSOH, seeks slim, broad minded female, any age for discreet no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416345

KIND affectionate female, seeks like-minded lady. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383518

ELDERLY Redhill male, seeks slim lady to reignite ones thoughts of female company. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416221



TALL male, likes meals out, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416899

JACK 47, tall, good-looking, average build, GSOH, seeks broadminded female for discreet no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416867

ASHFORD male, 66, GSOH, easy going, smoker, down to earth, adventurous, seeks like-minded female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416845

MALE 70's, fit, looking for lady to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416663

WELL built 6ft tall ex soldier would like to be given my orders by a special lady and to have fun times with. Text Only Mailbox No: 4420728

MALE 70's, fit, looking for lady to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416663

JACK 47, tall, good looking, average build, GSOH, seeks slim, broad minded female, any age for discreet no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416345

MALE blond hair, blue eyes, seeking female with GSOH, 45-60. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416445

JACK 47, tall, good looking, average build, GSOH, seeks slim, broad minded, submissive female, any age for discreet no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416345

PETE 49, slim, 5ft 7in s, smoker, creative, likes art, live bands, outdoors, seeks similar female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416377

SIMON 49, actor, likes music, films, reading, writing, loop holes, Thailand, Singapore, seeking pretty female, 35 plus for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416345

MALE 46, wishes to meet female of similar age for fun, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415923

52YR old male, seeks female for adult fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415261

ACTIVE honest, reliable, loyal, N/S male, 70, varied interests, seeks slim, positive, 60's lady for friendship and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415931

QUIET easy going gent, likes nights in/out, seeks kind, caring white female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416055

MATURE businessman, seeking slim, independent young female for mutual pleasure. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416023

ASIAN male, 68, US educated, seeks black/European female of similar age, discreet, East London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415997

Gay Seeking

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

BI male, slim, passive, seeks older bi M, 75- 90, for gentle fun and friendship. Text only to Mailbox No: 4398888

MAIDSTONE bi male, clean-shaven, N/S, seeks similar bi male, N/S for meetings. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416377

PASSIVE male, 60, overweight seeks assertive male for daytime fun, cannot accommodate. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4321273

MATURE closet CD, seeks mature CD for discreet fun, can accommodate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415065

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Chaucer College Canterbury

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SCHOOL BUSINESS MANAGER

PO6: £41,139 - £43,877 37hrs per week, All Year Round

BRADSTOW SCHOOL

Seeking a Creative, Committed and Enthusiastic School Business Manager, to join us in September 2015.

If you would like to join our team we are confident that you will find this the most satisfying job you have ever undertaken.

Bradstow is an exciting and unique residential school registered as a Children's Home for children between the ages of 5 & 19. It is set in 13 acres of parkland within a few hundred metres of the sandy beaches of Broadstairs. We endeavour to meet the needs of children with autism and severe learning difficulties, many of whom have associated challenging behaviours. We have achieved international recognition for our leadership, supporting our people and for our developments in Functional Communication and Positive Behaviour Support.

You will be responsible to the Headteacher for leading and developing the business and financial strategies of the school, whilst leading an efficient and effective range of support services to underpin the key function of the school.

You will be a member of the Senior Leadership Team and contribute significantly to the continuous improvement of the school's key processes as a leader in the school. With a proven track record of leadership, with at least three years' experience in middle management and holding a recognised management qualification, you will lead all support service areas and have overall management responsibility for: Office Administration, Finance, Human Resources, Premises and Facilities, Housekeeping Services and ICT Infrastructure.

You will be provided with an extended and ongoing package of induction and training, and will commit to achieving, within 3 years, or already hold the Certificate of School Business Management (NCSL). We believe that staff training and professional development, together with the other staff support systems in place, are essential in our specialised field and are at the core of the success of the School.

You will also be encouraged and supported to extend your skills and knowledge by undertaking further studies, including the Diploma of School Business Management, for which a review of salary would be considered.

If you would like to join our team and help us to continue to transform the lives of these children and their families, please contact us. Working at Bradstow will be challenging and you will need to be committed to the needs of the young people and the school. In return we offer you a highly rewarding and satisfying career which will both develop your skills and prepare you for senior and/or specialist leadership posts as your career develops - with quite a bit of fun thrown in as well!

For an application form and information pack please email personnel@bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk

Please note that CVs will not be considered.

Applications should be received by midnight, Thursday 4th June 2015

We welcome visits to the school prior to your application, and a relocation package may be available to the right candidate.

Bradstow is committed to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children & young people, and all posts are subject to an enhanced DBS check.

TO ADVERTISE:

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Do you have the skills to assist the next generation of employees?

MidKent College is looking for skilled and highly motivated people to work in a variety of areas to assess, monitor and train the region's future business and industry workforce.

We are looking for workplace assessors (Training Officers) who are able to visit businesses and work with students and employers on a one to one basis.

We are keen to meet motivated individuals who wish to use their knowledge in building relationships with employers and assessing the skills of their apprentices within the workplace.

As such you would have a keen eye for detail, be able to work to deadlines and willing to take on upskilling /training to meet the needs of the role.

We have a range of full and part-time opportunities in various areas including, but not limited to, Business Admin, Electrical Installation, Engineering, Construction Professional, Health Care, Housing, Security, Sales and Science. We offer flexible working arrangements, a salary of up to £32K and a pension scheme.

You will need to be suitably qualified and ideally have an assessor's qualification.

The college will be hosting an **Open Evening on Monday 18th May 2015 from 5pm – 7pm** at our **Medway Campus, Medway Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 1FN**

For further information please contact **Gemma Bassett-Burr on 01634 383639** or please contact **job.applications@midkent.ac.uk**

The continuing growth of our business has resulted in a vacancy for the following staff:

Business Office Administrator - Dover

Full time Hours: 37.5 per week Closing date: 29/05/2015
Salary: £16,487.75 per annum Experience and Qualifications

Qualifications and Experience

- Maths and English GCSE A*-C or equivalent
- 2 years' experience working within an Administrative environment
- Good IT Skills
- Excellent Customer Service skills
- Experience in the health sector desirable

Interviews for this role will be held on 9th June 2015

To discuss this opportunity, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact: Danielle Edwards, Business Office Supervisor, on 01304 2459556

Senior Staff Nurse – Margate

Full time Hours: 37.5 per week Closing date: 29/05/2015
Salary: £26-28,000 per annum dependant on experience

Qualifications

- Registered Nurse 1st Level
- Minimum 2 years' experience, preferably in a surgical environment with a broad knowledge and understanding of multi specialist surgical procedures
- Evidence of continual professional development
- Teaching and Assessing Course or equivalent

Interviews for this role will be held on 3rd June 2015

To discuss this opportunity, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact: Mary Guarnieri, Ward Manager, 07786 17379

Receptionist/Administrator - Margate

Full time Hours: 37.5 per week Closing date: 29/05/2015
Salary: £16,171.66 per annum

Qualifications and Experience

- Maths and English GCSE A – C Grade
- Excellent telephone manner
- 2 years working in a customer services role
- Excellent IT skills (Word, Excel, Booking systems)

Interviews for this role will be held on 19th June 2015

To discuss this opportunity, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact: Caroline McKean, OPD Admin Supervisor on 01843 234372

For a job description and application form please visit www.spencerprivatehospitals.com/careers

Alternatively, please contact Justine Whittle, HR Assistant Telephone: 01304 245943.

Spencer Private Hospitals is an equal opportunity employer. This position is subject to a Disclosure and Barring check.



Westlands SCHOOL

Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 1PF
A member of Swale Academies Trust

TRAINEE SCIENCE TECHNICIAN

Required as soon as possible
35 hours per week, term time only

Salary starting at £14,671 - £16,633 pa (pro-rata) (equal to £11,443 - £12,973)

We seek to appoint a trainee Science Technician to join our team of staff who are responsible for providing technical support in science subjects (KS3, KS4, A Level, BTEC) and to coordinate the use of practical resources and facilities in the Science Department.

The successful candidate will receive in-house and external training to support their development in becoming fully effective in this role. Previous experience is not required, but an interest in Science, a willingness to learn and a team spirit is essential.

Duties will include:

- running trials of experiments prior to classes and then demonstrating techniques for experiments;
- preparing equipment and chemicals before lessons – from test tubes to microscopes;
- maintaining and repairing equipment and laboratory apparatus;
- ensuring that equipment is properly cleaned and that chemicals and other materials are appropriately stored;
- ensuring that all health and safety procedures are understood and followed correctly;

Ofsted 2012

Achievement is outstanding

Teaching is outstanding

Behaviour is outstanding

Leadership is outstanding

Recruitment packs are available from Westlands School or online (www.swaleacademiestrust.org.uk). Please note, we cannot accept CVs without an application form. Closing date: 28 May 2015 (noon).

Swale Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced DBS check.

Contact Details

Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 479461 | Email swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk
Trust Principal: Mr J Whitcombe MA | Headteacher: Mr S Cox MA

Swale Academies Trust Company No 7344732

Registered Office: Ashdown House, Johnson Road, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1JS

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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

**LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY
LICENSING ACT 2003
PREMISES LICENCE**

TAKE NOTICE THAT WE/I

MR SEREF ILHAN

Being the occupier(s)/owner(s)/applicant(s) of the undermentioned premises.

BALKON, 1 CHATTERTON ROAD, BREMLEY BR2 9QW

Have applied to the Council of the London Borough of Bromley to allow the following licensable activities to take place:

SUPPLY OF ALCOHOL ON THE PREMISES:
MONDAY TO SUNDAY 11:00 HRS - 22:30 HRS

This is a new application for the grant of a Premises Licence

Any person wishing to object to the application should do so by giving notice in writing stating the grounds of objection to the Environmental Health & Trading Standards, Licensing and Business Support, Civic Centre, Stockwell Close, Bromley, BR1 3UH, within 28 days. Persons objecting to the application should be prepared to attend in person at a public hearing before a Committee of the Council.

Signed: Turnkey Designs

Date: 13th May 2015

LICENSING ACT 2003

An application has been made by:

Markandu Ahilan for the premises Lucky News, 1 Boughton Parade, Loose Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 9QD

On the date of: 14/05/2015

Summary of the proposed licensable activities and the proposed hours of opening:

**RETAIL SALE OF ALCOHOL OFF THE PREMISES
MONDAY TO SUNDAY
BETWEEN THE HOURS 06:00 to 23:00**

Any person wishing to view details of an application may contact the Licensing Partnership on 01732 227004

Any person wishing to make representation about the application should make them in writing on or before the: 10/06/2015

Licensing Partnership, PO BOX 182, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1GP

licensing@sevenoaks.gov.uk

<http://pa.sevenoaks.gov.uk/online-licensing>

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary of conviction for the offence is £5000.



Work on Gills for next season starts

Edinburgh starts looking at adding 'fresh faces' to the team

Football

By Jamie Weir

jamie.weir@archant.co.uk

GILLS boss Justin Edinburgh is set for a busy summer as he kicks off a recruitment drive which has seen him use his Tottenham Hotspur links.

The manager - who played for Tottenham between 1990 and 2000 - managed to snare Emanuel Osadebe on a one year deal from the from his old club's foundation college programme.

Edinburgh said that he'd managed to pull some strings with his links.

He said: "With my connections at Tottenham I was made aware of Emanuel's progress and we were able to get him to train with us and see how he performed during a few development games.

"He impressed us during those fixtures and we are delighted to have signed him on a one year deal and he will have opportunities within our development squad, certainly pushing for a place in the first team."

The Gills gaffer is also looking at bringing other players who've impressed during their time at Priestfield back to the club. Top of the shopping list for Edinburgh seems to be Millwall's John Marquis and QPR's Max Ehmer. The duo's solid performances have impressed Edinburgh, and he says he'll be looking to pick the pair up if possible.

He said: "We've spoken with both representatives, John's contract expires at the end of the season and over the next couple of weeks we will have a greater idea of the situation. Max is slightly different because he has an-



EXCITED: The Gills boss says he's feeling good about the players he's got
Pictures: ADY KERRY

other year to run on his contract at QPR but I've spoken to people there and personally I think something could be done.

"Max has told me that this is where he wants to be playing next season but because they are not our players it's out of our hands but we are hopeful they will be concluded.

"Until deals are concluded there are always opportunities of it not being successful."

The manager is gearing up to add new signings though, saying that he looks forward to bringing in some "fresh faces" for next season.

He said: "I'm really excited, I think the players that are already here, and credit to them, have taken on board what we expect in terms of standards and the way we want to play.

"Hopefully we can continue the progression we have made so far.

Rally champ gets fired up for Sardinia return

DESPITE being anything but the stereotypical rally driver, Maidstone's Louise Cook has proved her worth behind a steering wheel, skidding and slalomming her way to becoming the first female ever to take a FIA Rally title win against the men.

The 28-year-old is now setting her sights on a World Rally Championship campaign, which is set to start in Sardinia in just four weeks time.

However, funding for her fight to get to the top has been tough, with the talented young racer having to sell her trophies to rack up the cash needed to get her car on the road.

Cook has now also decided to use a very modern way to get the cash she needs - a crowdfunding campaign, which looks to get members of the public to back her.

The constant fundraising has tak-



COOK: Looking for sponsors to get her on the podium in the WRC

en a toll on the driver, with a hunt for commercial sponsors as well.

She told KoS: "I'm flat out day and

night calling anyone I can find on the internet, sending emails and meeting as many people as I can. I just rely on the fire in my belly to keep me going."

That fire and passion has been driving her towards the championship ever since, as a six-year-old, she managed to crash an electric jeep in her garden.

Since then she has been determined to prove a point in the male-dominated sport.

She said: "It's a tragedy that no female has broken through into the top flight of motorsport for so long. I honestly feel right now, if I do not break this barrier I don't know who will."

You can support her campaign by searching for Louise Cook at indiegogo.com

Sport Shorts

» Email sports@kosmedia.co.uk or call Jamie Weir on 01233 653481

Fleet head for summer sun in pre-season trip



FLEET: Focus will be on getting out of the Conference South

EBBSFLEET United have confirmed a busy pre-season build-up as they look to put the disappointment of their final months of the season behind them and focus on the future.

Manager Daryl McMahon, replacement for Jamie Day whose ill-fated reign in charge ended with his dismissal, says Fleet will take to the road for five games on the trot due to construction work taking place at their Stonebridge Road stadium.

The team jet off to a pre-season training camp in Portugal on June 3.

When the team gets back, things look set to get busy for them with trips to VCD Athletic, Braintree Town and Tonbridge.

They will return to their stadium for a match on August 1 against opponents still to be confirmed.

The club will be setting their sights very much on winning promotion to the Conference.

In addition to the league, the Fleet will compete in the second qualifying round of the FA Cup on September 28 and third qualifying round of the FA Trophy on November 28.

Kent still awaiting win

DESPITE some solid bowling, Kent were unable to take their first County Championship win of the season as they battled against Glamorgan this week.

The match at the Spitfire Ground ended as a draw, after Kent were unable to dismiss Glamorgan's tail, which managed to hang on to stumps, finishing on 309 for nine.

Aggressive bowling from paceman Matt Coles couldn't shift the Welsh team's batsmen, with David Lloyd and Michael Hogan clinging on until the end.

All rounder Calum Haggett, who managed a career best of four for 61 during the match, was quick to sing Coles' praises.

He said: "I thought we bowled well as a unit today. Coles gave it everything bowling at the top and it's mixed emotions for me as I'm happy to play and take four wickets but to come so close is disappointing for the boys."

The team is now gearing up to start their match against Gloucestershire on Monday. Haggett said they were 'positive' and hoping to 'bounce back' in the match.



COLES: The paceman couldn't help Kent bowl out Glamorgan

Stones keep hold of top scorer

MAIDSTONE FC have kept hold of their top goal scorer from last season, Jay May.

Last season was his first full campaign with the Stones, and he managed to get 24 goals during his 44 appearances, with most coming in the last few months of the season as he settled into his rhythm.

The 29-year-old has agreed a deal

which will see him stay at the Stones next season - something which has pleased manager Jay Saunders.

He said: "I'm delighted as Jay's obviously one of the players we were looking to keep hold of.

"I remember last season everyone saying he wouldn't score many goals, but he ended up becoming crucial because he got so many."

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